



## EPA REGION 7 GREEN CLEANUP POLICY



The Region 7 Green Cleanup policy is our commitment to cleanup actions that achieve and enhance the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment by adopting green cleanup practices that promote sustainability and address climate change. To the maximum extent practicable, the Region will assess and consider the totality of the environmental effects from site investigation, evaluation of cleanup options through optimization of the design, implementation, and operation of new or existing cleanups.

The goal of the comprehensive green cleanup approach is to reduce costs (capital and natural) through energy, materials, and resource conservation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance the benefits to communities, ecological systems and businesses.

Region 7 staff and Branch Chiefs, together with our leadership, will institute this policy in the day-to-day conduct of our internal and external operations by encouraging innovation in green cleanups. We hereby adopt the following green cleanup approaches:

- First and foremost, our green cleanups will meet and where possible exceed, all federal, tribal and state legal requirements for protection of human health and the environment.
- Optimize and implement green cleanups by increasing our understanding of the environmental footprint and, to the extent practical, minimize that footprint, i.e., decreasing the use of energy, water and materials resources needed to achieve cleanup objectives. For example, during cleanup activities, we will promote the use of renewable energy sources, including solar, anaerobic digestion, hydroelectric, geothermal, and wind power.
- Embrace and follow the "Principles for Green Cleanups," Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (Aug. 2, 2009), as amended, which will be implemented through the Region 7, "Green Remediation Policy Implementation Strategy."
- As identified in the relevant laws, regulations and policies, consider community input and future land use for sites and facilities. Green cleanups will encourage and support community and stakeholder adoption of sustainability principles and practices in making future land use, building and infrastructure design and construction decisions that would enhance community health, livability and resource conservation, environmental restoration and protection. Green cleanups will also address climate change vulnerabilities such as community resiliency to flooding and drought. For example, final site design will consider best practices in storm water management and ecological enhancements, such as the use of native plants and grasses.

The Region 7 Green Cleanup Policy applies to all cleanup programs, Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Brownfields, Underground Storage Tanks, Tribal, Enforcement, including those performed by EPA, Potentially Responsible Parties, US Army Corps of Engineers, contractors, and Federal Facilities. Region 7 intends to promote implementation of this policy by state- and tribal-authorized programs and by other stakeholders.

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Mark Hague  
Acting Regional Administrator

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Bob Jackson  
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Handwritten signature of Becky Weber in blue ink.

Becky Weber  
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