

**United States Department of Agriculture
21881 N Cardon Lane, Maricopa, Arizona
Agricultural Research Service**

**Environmental Management System
Policy Statement**

The United States Department of Agriculture Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center (ALARC) at 21881 N Cardon Lane in Maricopa, Arizona, houses four units of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) personnel: Pest Management and Biocontrol; Plant Physiology and Genetics; Water Management and Conservation; and the Maricopa Location Support Staff. These units conduct research to develop solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and work to ensure that Americans have reliable, adequate supplies of high-quality food and other agricultural products. In conjunction with these missions, we are committed to protecting human health and the environment; meeting or exceeding Federal, State and local laws, regulations, codes and guidelines; and employing sustainable pollution prevention and resource conservation programs. Whenever feasible, we will utilize these practices as the means for achieving environmental compliance. We will strive to minimize environmental impacts and to continually improve our performance by:

- Maintaining a policy of commitment to environmental excellence through environmental compliance, pollution prevention, resource conservation and continual improvement.
- Developing annual goals, objectives, and targets to advance our program performance in terms of both regulated and unregulated environmental impacts.
- Considering environmental impacts when making policy, planning, purchasing and operating decisions.
- Identifying and complying with pertinent environmental requirements in Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; permits; Department of Agriculture and ARS policies and procedures; and industry codes to which we must adhere.
- Requesting the necessary resources to successfully carry out our goals, objectives and targets.
- Making personnel aware of their environmental roles and responsibilities, providing appropriate training, and holding employees accountable for their performance and actions, including recognizing them for outstanding performance.
- Effectively communicating our commitment to the environment to our employees, partners, stakeholders, customers and the general public, and soliciting their input in developing and achieving our environmental goals and objectives.
- Routinely monitoring our environmental operations and conducting periodic inspections, audits and reviews to ascertain that we meet applicable standards and to evaluate our program effectiveness.
- Correcting identified deficiencies in a timely manner and taking appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence.
- Clearly documenting and reporting the progress and achievements related to this policy.

Steve Naranjo, Center Director