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Hanford Site Contractors Exceed Recycling Goals

RICHLAND, Wash. – With a strong emphasis placed on recycling and protecting the environment, Hanford Site workers continue to be leaders in the “going green” movement.

As the Hanford Site’s integrator and manager of the site’s recycling programs, Mission Support Alliance (MSA) focuses on environmental awareness and sustainability. Each year, MSA’s goal is to divert at least 50 percent of nonhazardous solid waste debris away from landfills.

In 2017, the Department of Energy (DOE) and Hanford contractors diverted approximately 1,224 metric tons away from landfills, an amount representing 57 percent of the total nonhazardous waste. Nonhazardous solid waste includes plastic, cardboard, paper, wood, furniture, scrap metals, electronics, and tires.

Additionally, universal waste, including fluorescent light bulbs, batteries and other recyclable material such as aerosol cans are collected and sent to Hanford’s Centralized Consolidation/Recycling Center then sent offsite for recycling. In 2017, 154 metric tons of universal waste and other recyclable material was collected for recycling.

Hanford contractors, in coordination with DOE, maintain an integrated sustainability network to communicate recycling campaign efforts, such as the hard hat recycling campaigns in November and April. Last year, Hanford workers gathered and recycled more than 1,220 pounds of expired or damaged hard hats. More than 950 pounds of hard hats have already been recycled this year.

“Recycling is an important part of the cleanup mission at Hanford,” said Carly Nelson, environmental compliance officer with MSA. “Our success in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills is tied directly to workers across the site making a commitment to protect the environment. April is Earth Month, which is a good reminder for everyone to take a moment and think about how they can have a positive impact on the environment by making conscious recycling choices.”

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About the Richland Operations Office

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government's cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. Except for a tank waste mission managed by the DOE Office of River Protection, the DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov.

About the Office of River Protection

ORP is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford's 177 underground tanks – the result of more than four decades of plutonium production. The River Protection Project is the largest and most complex environmental remediation project in the nation. ORP oversees the tank waste management mission by Washington River Protection Solutions, and the building of the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant by Bechtel National Inc. which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification.

About MSA

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward.
<http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>