

THE COAST GUARD



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS PROGRAM

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The Coast Guard Environmental Sustainability Awards Program

The Environmental Sustainability Awards Program is designed to promote awareness and action on the part of Coast Guard personnel to comply with environmental requirements while being good stewards of the environment. The awards program recognizes units and individuals who by their own leadership and actions have created a better Coast Guard by changing the way they do business, by buying "green", and by behaving in ways that express progress toward sustainability.

Coast Guard buildings, aircraft, vessels, sites, and structures are all subject to environmental requirements. The awards program was begun to recognize leadership in innovative environmental practices that might otherwise go unrecognized. Program goals are to improve performance and management of assets to attain environmental compliance, reduce liabilities, and discover and apply new methods that reduce environmental impacts from the Coast Guard on the maritime domain.

Partnering is also important. Recent awards have included leaders who engage other stakeholders to help develop networks, and promote cross-functional activities outside the fenceline. The environmental awards program recognizes that the most effective leaders will use these contacts whenever possible to make contributions to sustainable progress.

Envisioning a preferred environmental future is environmental leadership. Setting this vision into an overall strategy while accomplishing the mission is the leader's response to this challenge. The environmental awards program takes advantage of the Coast Guard's role as an environmental agency whose own missions often are to enforce environmental requirements. These leaders are helping the Coast Guard achieve a modern, efficient, and environmentally sound future.

Competencies addressed: Management and Process Improvement, Creativity and Innovation, Vision Development and Implementation, and Partnering.