

# Environmental Insight



## Secretary of the Navy Earth Day Message:

We are living in a time of unprecedented environmental threats, with multiple crises relating to climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution impacting the health and sustainability of the environment, and posing challenges to our readiness. Tackling these threats will take a whole of government, and whole of society approach built upon partnership. The Department of the Navy (DON) is committed to being an integral partner in these efforts, while advancing our national security priorities. In the spirit of the 2023 Earth Day theme, "Invest in Our Planet, Protect our Future," I want to recognize the progress and achievements that we've made over the past year to help tackle these environmental threats.



In particular, I want to highlight efforts to execute Climate Action 2030; invest in environmental stewardship, resilience, and sustainability; and protect and enhance mission capabilities for the future.

Last year, the DON released Climate Action 2030, our approach to ensure our force is more capable and resilient in the face of climate change. This strategy, and the commitment it represents, demonstrates very clearly that addressing climate security is fully aligned to our core mission of being the most dominant maritime force. Over the past year, we've developed and are executing projects to im-

prove our energy efficiency, reduce and/or sequester carbon emissions, and improve the environmental resiliency of our installations and ranges. We are focused on installation and operational energy investments to make us better warfighters by extending our range, reducing our refueling requirements, and increasing the energy security of our installations, all while benefiting the environment. We are also working with partners, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through its Engineering with Nature program, to design and execute projects incorporating nature-based solutions to address sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and other climate change related impacts to our readiness.

Achieving a sustainable future requires thoughtful stewardship of resources and the environment. In line with Executive Order 14057, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment (ASN EI&E) was designated as the Department's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO). ASN EI&E has issued two CSO memorandums to highlight key sustainability priorities for the Department to focus on: infrastructure and water resilience. On Earth Day, we are issuing CSO serial three, focused on nature-based resilience, which calls on the Department to work across business lines (e.g., public works, environmental, asset management) to optimize and integrate natural assets into our strategic planning initiatives. Future CSO memos are planned to focus on energy resilience and environmental acquisition. (Continued on Page 2)



Environmental Policy and Plans as well as previous Newsletters are located at:

<https://cnrnw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/Operations-and Management/Environmental-Support-and-Compliance/>

### Earth Day 2023

(Continued from Page 1) The DON ensures the values of Earth Day are upheld every day through continued dedication to the stewardship of the environment. Clean air, water, and land are essential to the safety and health of our military and civilian personnel, families, and neighboring communities. The DON has a duty to conserve and protect natural and cultural resources on our installations and ranges, both as a public trust responsibility, and because well-managed resources ensure safety, continued access to, and long-term sustainability of our ranges and installations. Conducting training, testing, construction, and other base operating activities in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural and cultural resources both safeguards important species and habitats, and makes the DON a more trusted community partner, enhancing the resiliency of our lands and assets for the future.

The recent recovery and delisting from the Endangered Species Act of five species (one bird and four plants) on San Clemente Island after decades of stewardship investments and collaborative conservation efforts between

the Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a testament to the environment as a strategic asset that enables warfighter readiness. This action will improve training opportunities and enhance flexibility for military readiness activities.



As outlined in the DON's Earth Day Planning Guide issued last month, Earth Day activities offer a valuable opportunity for commands to come together on- and off-base, to advance and showcase efforts to preserve the environment while achieving the DON mission.

To emphasize the importance, Department leadership will be participating in events throughout the country over the next week from Earth Day to Arbor Day to highlight our environmental stewardship. I encourage each of you to participate in efforts on DON installations, at sea, and in your communities to make investments in our planet. Just as the DON's efforts to protect and preserve our operating environment are not limited to a single day, I encourage our Sailors, Marines, civilians, and their families to incorporate efforts into your daily lives to protect our future.

As always, I am proud to see the tremendous effort put forth by all members of the DON as you demonstrate our strong commitment to protecting our planet.



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39 participants collected 200 lbs of trash and 15 lbs of recycling materials on April 21, 2023 at Naval Station Everett.

Also, invasive plants, such as blackberry and English ivy, were removed and sword ferns were planted and mulch rings were installed on April 22, 2023 at Naval Radio Station Jim Creek Recreation Area .

Thank you to all the sailors and civilians who showed up and contributed to enhancing the beauty and water quality at NAVSTA Everett and NAVRS Jim Creek!

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**NSE Environmental Staff**  
Environmental Office: (425) 304-3470

Program	Phone
Spills	(425) 304-3465
Natural Resources	(425) 304-3464
Stormwater, Wastewater, & UST/AST	(425) 304-3277
Air & Drinking Water	(425) 304-3466
Recycling	(425) 304-3071
Hazardous Waste	(425) 304-5987

# What is an Illicit Discharge?

## Illicit Discharge Warning Signs

It is illegal to dump (discharge) anything other than stormwater into a storm discharge system (illicit discharge) or to connect any unauthorized pipe, ditch, or other manmade structure to a storm drainage system (illicit connection) per Section 2.3 of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit. Indications of an illicit discharge can include staining, residues, oily substances, and abnormal flow during dry weather, murky water, or suds.



Suds

**Dry weather flows** may be observed after prolonged periods without rain and there may be staining. Annually the Base Environmental Stormwater Program manager will check stormwater outfalls for dry weather flows and if present, complete field testing to determine the source.

**Suds** often enter storm water systems as a result of improperly connected car washes or washing machines. Suds can also be the result of vehicle washing practices.



Oily Sheen

**Oil/gas** is recognized as a sheen on the water. Natural sheens may be differentiated from oil/gas sheen by breaking up the sheen with a stick. Natural sheens will remain separated and have sharp edges while oil/gas sheens will reattach and form a solid sheet. Oil/gas can enter water bodies via storm water runoff (spills at gas stations, oil leaks on pavement and illegal dumping).

**Sanitary sewage** may be present if there is black staining inside the drainage pipe; visible evidence of sanitary waste (such as toilet paper); or opaque or gray water.



Sewage flow

### Report stormwater pollution immediately!

Any pollution entering the storm drain must be stopped to prevent harm to the environment. Contact 396-4444 immediately if you see this happening.

**Only rain down the drain.**

## MS4 Education Materials

A large part of our MS4 Stormwater Permit is public outreach and education. You will notice some outdoor stormwater signage and indoor postings around the base which is meant to educate and remind base personnel of the Navy's commitment to stormwater compliance. The intent is to provide positive reinforcement as well as provide our contact information for reporting spills. Our program has both the pictured magnets available for posting on refrigerators in your command. If a command representative would like to come by and pick some up, please let us know so we can arrange a time to meet you. Please help us keep these magnets attached to refrigerators and postings posted.



EWCCs are our conduit to the tenant commands on base, and your support of our environmental programs goes a long way in ensuring your command's understanding and compliance. If you need additional magnets or replacements, please let us know.





# Trash & Excess Government Property

**Trash** — Please note that bringing trash from off base is against regulations. Dumpsters on base are to be used for refuse generated on station and not personal use. All trash should be bagged and placed into your Command's green dumpster. Ensure that all container lids are closed after disposing of trash. Rope, furniture, metal and any other large or bulky items should not be placed into the dumpster. These types of items possess a safety concern to the ISW Program team handling the materials and can damage our equipment. If large and heavy items are placed into the dumpster, this could cause damage to the truck which uses a mechanically compacted function that allows more efficient collections. Repairs costs are extremely high and lengthy for this type of truck. Please help us keep everyone safe and our equipment operational and call the ISW/Recycle Office at (425) 304-3071 to schedule an appointment to bring these items to building 2331.



**Excess Government Property** — The Integrated Solid Waste and Qualified Recycling Programs (QRP) have a list of eligible (and a list of ineligible materials) that they are allowed to handle. If your Command has reusable or excess government property or items that are ineligible for the QRP, there are certain requirements for disposal or recycling. Many items MUST be turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at Fort Lewis. This requires planning in advance. Start by locating the National Stock Number (NSN) for the excess items. A Local Stock Number (LSN) may be used as a last resort, if you cannot identify a valid NSN. It is inherent that you determine the DEMIL (demilitarization) code for each item. A QRP is only allowed to accept DEMIL A items that are on the eligible list. All other DEMIL codes are required to go to DLA. Create an electronic turn-in document, DD Form 1348-1A. Once approved, you will need 4 copies. Then schedule a date/time to turn in your materials at DLA Fort Lewis. The scheduler may be a few months out. Questions regarding the turn in process, should be sent to DRMSLewisDSR@dla.mil. Please note that the ISW/QRP Program is not authorized to override any turn in requirements regarding DLA. We need everyone to do their part in order to efficiently and properly dispose of government items.



**Help keep wildlife wild and healthy.** Please do NOT feed wildlife on base such as ducks, geese, gulls, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, etc.. One way you can help reduce wildlife conflicts with people is by not feeding wildlife near human populations.