## Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

Volume 1 ● Issue 2 November 2009

## **Embracing Environmental Sustainability**

he concept of environmental sustainability has been addressed for many years, though it has been known by different names. In 1969, the National **Environmental Policy Act** was passed as one of the first legislative frameworks of any country to protect the environment. This concept of protecting the environment is called environmental sustainability, and it is a key component of INL's sustainability program.

According to Robert Goodland (formerly with the World Bank and the World Resources Institute), environmental sustainability "seeks to improve human welfare by protecting the sources of raw materials used for human needs and ensuring that the sinks for human wastes are not exceeded."

There are two components to environmental sustainability: using the environment as a source of raw materials and as a "sink" for wastes. In addition to preserving the environment to meet

human needs, environmental sustainability encourages the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.

What can be done to ensure and promote environmental sustainability? The efficient use of resources includes using renewable energy, slowing depletion of nonrenewable energy by using alternative transportation, environmentally sustainable measures by implementing a recycling and electronics stewardship program, purchasing and researching renewable energy, conserving water, designing energy-efficient buildings, purchasing new, alternative-fuel fleet vehicles, installing energy-efficient lighting and much more.

These small changes will help to make the practices

## Sustainable INL Program

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"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

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designing sustainable buildings and conserving water. On the other hand, it is important to keep waste emissions within the capacity of the environment by recycling, reducing the release of toxic materials, reducing harmful carbon emissions and preventing pollution.

INL is working toward both components of environmental sustainability. The laboratory has adopted associated with environmental sustainability more ubiquitous within the laboratory. And contributing to these practices and small changes at INL lets every employee play a role in INL's sustainability program.



