



SUSTAINABILITY AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Update: Network for Emerging Leaders in Sustainability (NELS)

September 25, 2009



Project Objectives

What is NELS?

- The Network for Emerging Leaders in Sustainability (NELS) is a network for early to mid-career professionals (and professionals who are new to the topic of sustainability) who are interested in building bridges with peers in DC-area agencies and organizations.
- The Network includes individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, from natural resource management to energy policy to public health. NELS members share a common interest in taking a multidisciplinary approach to sustainability challenges -- considering the economic, environmental, social, and cultural dimensions of these problems.
- Through NELS, emerging leaders will foster relationships and identify potential areas for improved interagency collaboration that enable them to more effectively bring about a sustainable future.

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NELS Events

- Origin: October 2007 Meeting of the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability
- First NELS meeting: March 2008
- 13 events held
- Generally, 30-40 attendees from various federal government agencies, non profit organizations and the private sector
 - AAAS, Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) and NAS Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellows



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Past Speakers

- **Matt Arnold**, *Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers*
- **Ann Bartuska**, *Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- **John Carberry**, *Carberry Envirotech, Former Director of Environmental Technology, DuPont*
- **Leslie Carothers**, *President, Environmental Law Institute*
- **Michael Crow**, *President, Arizona State University*
- **Brian Czech**, *President, Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE)*
- **Brian Gregory Mitchell**, *Research Biologist and Senior Lecturer, University of California, San Diego*
- **Henry Hatch**, *retired Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army*
- **Alan Hecht**, *Director for Sustainable Development, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
- **Emmy Simmons**, *Former Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*
- **Vaughan Turekian**, *Chief International Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science*



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Future Directions

Goals:

- Future events will be more closely tied with STS activities
- Increased outreach at local universities

Timeline:

- Fall 2009 (November), Related to developing sustainable urban systems
 - Related to September 2009 forum on developing sustainable urban systems
- Winter 2010
 - Related to June 2009 Regional Biofuels workshop