



**SUSTAINABILITY**  
AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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.



## **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



## **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