



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Mountain Home Air Force Base

Mountain Home, Idaho

2003

Environmental Commitment

Mountain Home AFB is committed to unparalleled environmental stewardship throughout the facility and the air combat training range land.

Pollution Prevention Success

Innovation

Product substitutions have decreased the base's hazardous waste by more than 30 tons per year. Examples include base-wide replacement of hazardous chemical/biological filters with a non-hazardous style; elimination of mercury-filled thermometers; conversion to a fully digital photo shop; replacement of lead-acid batteries with nickel-cadmium batteries; transition to a heating and lighting configuration powered entirely by natural gas; and replacement of old lighting ballast's with energy-saving bulbs.

Green Purchasing

An innovative parts washer has reduced hazardous waste generation by over 800 pounds annually. New petroleum, oil, and lubricant (POL) wringers have cut shop hazardous waste streams by 1,350 pounds per year. An electrostatic painting system minimizes paint throughput by 15 percent, reduces air emission pollutants, and increases transfer efficiency.

Conservation

Reuse of items such as spill kits, flammable storage lockers, POL wringers, and disaster control equipment has saved 1.5 tons of hazardous material from entering the waste stream. A closed-loop used oil recycling program preserves over 20,000 gallons of oil annually. Also, the base used treated effluent water as a dust suppressant during recent reconstruction of the base runway, conserving over 10 million gallons of water.

The Central Collection Facility hosts a "Trading Post" where base residents can receive and/or be reissued household paints, cleaners, pesticides, and other household hazardous chemicals. Also, a strong commitment to recycling throughout base shops and base housing has diverted 13 million pounds of solid waste from the base landfill over the past decade.

Transportation

Many of Mountain Home AFB's 2,620 military and civilian employees commute to work by bicycling, walking, carpooling or vanpooling. The base has partnered with the ACHD Commuteride program to enable employees in the Treasure Valley to commute by vanpool. Currently, 9 vans run daily, with an average of 10 passengers on each.

Leadership

The 366th Fighter Wing has a proven commitment to environmental excellence. Unsurpassed loyalty to the environmental mission through mindful base operations and insightful pollution prevention techniques have earned the coveted General Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Award for Non-Industrial Bases, the first-ever Idaho GEMStars Award for Environmental Excellence, designation as “Facility of the Year” by Environmental Protection magazine, and countless more individual recognition awards for Pollution Prevention team members.

For More Information

For more information, contact the 366th Environmental Flight at (208) 828-6351.

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