



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Office of Environmental Management

Reuse and Recycle Community of Practice (RR CoP)

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Office of Environmental Management

Office of Infrastructure and D&D



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RR CoP - Background

The Reuse and Recycle Community of Practice (RR CoP) is a voluntary Department-wide collaboration between interested Program Offices and sites to reduce costs for new acquisitions and disposal through reuse and recycle of excess materials.

Informally Chartered in 2023 to :

- Address shield block needs and develop a network to share excess metals and equipment.
- Rescind the Moratorium and Suspension 2001 memorandums.
- Promote reuse and recycle of DOE-owned materials and equipment.



RR CoP - Who We Are

The CoP is comprised of subject matter experts across the Complex in the fields of waste management, contracts and procurement, property management, D&D activities, federal project management, authorized limits, DOE policy, and packaging and transportation.

- Programs – Environmental Management (EM), NNSA, Office of Science (SC), Naval Reactors (NR), Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (EHSS), Nuclear Energy (NE), and the Office of Management (MA).
- Sites – OR, INL, LANL, LLNL, ANL, BNL, JLAB, SRS, WV, LBNL, EMCBC, EMNV, FNAL
- Grown from 5 members to over 70 members



RR CoP - Objectives

- Utilize excess inventories to the best extent possible to reduce - project costs, supply chain interruptions, landfill use, and asset lifecycle costs as well as Department program costs (financial and environmental).
- Provide a centralized forum to share knowledge regarding regulatory and policy, procurement, and technical information between program offices.
- Promote and engage in cost-sharing initiatives across programs and sites, share project lessons learned, and seek support to address materials and equipment gaps.



RR CoP – Communication

Communication & Collaboration

- SharePoint Page & mailbox
 - [DOE / NNSA Communities of Practice \(CoP\) - Reuse and Recycle](#)
 - DOEReuseRecycle@doe.gov
- Digital Flyers
- Monthly Meetings
- Project Specific Working Groups
- Presentations

The screenshot shows the DOE / NNSA Communities of Practice (CoP) Hub website. The header includes the DOE logo, navigation links (NNSA Home, NNSA Support, CoP Hub Home, Compensation, Career, Benefits, Culture, Explosives Safety Shared Documents, etc.), and user options (Not following, Site access). The main content area features a large green banner with a recycling symbol and the text "Reuse and Recycle CoP". Below the banner, there are sections for "Reuse and Recycle Projects Underway" (listing lead reuse and shield blocks), "Newly Nominated Materials Available" (listing Magnesium Fluoride Pellets), "What is the RR CoP?" (describing the community's purpose), and "What are the benefits of reuse?" (listing cost savings and asset value). A sidebar on the right contains "Reuse Inventories" (Excess Inventory Listing, Site Presentations) and "Reuse Resources" (March-2025-Reuse-Property-Memo, Reuse Excess Property Act, etc.). At the bottom, there are sections for "Reuse and Recycle Activities" and "Excess Inventory Database".



RR CoP – Reuse Regulations

41 CFR § 102-36

- “(a) Agency procurement policies must require consideration of excess personal property before authorizing procurement of new personal property.”
- “(e) When you no longer need personal property to carry out the mission of your program, you must:
(1) Offer the property for reassignment to other activities within your agency...”
- § 102-36.30 Maximize use of excess personal property.
“...You must use excess personal property unless it would cause serious hardship, be impractical, or impair your operations.”

Reuse Excess Property Act (P.L. 118-99) – passed 10/01/2024

- “...requires federal agencies to make public their internal guidance on using excess personal property to meet agency needs...(1) a requirement to consider excess personal property before buying new...”
 - [March-2025-Reuse-Property-Memo](#)



RR CoP – Recission of the Moratorium & Suspension Policies

Secretary Wright rescinded the Moratorium and Suspension policies on May 15, 2025 (Federal Register Notice, Volume 90, Number 9) :

- January 12, 2000, Secretary Memorandum, *Moratorium on the Free Release of Volumetrically Contaminated Metals*
- July 13, 2000, Secretary Memorandum, *Suspension on the Unrestricted Release of Scrap Metal from Radiation Areas within Department of Energy (DOE) Facilities.*

Sites are now authorized to process all scrap metals for unrestricted release and clearance as outlined in DOE O 458.1, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment.*

[OE-3 2025-02: Recommended Approaches for Rescinded Guidance \(Metals Moratorium\) | Department of Energy](#)

Related Active Policy Memos:

- January 19, 2001, Secretary Memorandum, *Internal Reuse and Recycling at Department of Energy Facilities*
- January 19, 2001, Secretary Memorandum, *Department-wide Lead Reuse Policy**



RR CoP – Current Reuse Projects

Idaho Cleanup Project:

- Needed Lead Blankets - Working with both SRS and Naval Reactors to acquire excess blankets.
(Naval Reactors will mostly have excess blankets of variable sizes still available and ready for reuse.)
- Receiving Transfer Cask – Perry Nuclear Power Plant, had a Hi-trac transfer cask (valued at \$400k) that was available for reuse prior to disposal. ICP is working with the Office of Asset Management and the RR CoP to arrange the inspection and transfer of the cask.

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility:

- Needs 580 tons of low-contaminated non-ferrous metals to make 10 55-ton shield blocks or SEG blocks.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory:

- Has (2) 5,000 gal Tankers available for reuse.
- Has approx. 1500 glass plates from the National Ignition Facility modernization project that will be available this year.



RR CoP – Lead Pilot Project

The RR CoP – Lead Project Working Group is pursuing recycle of DOE-lead for use as shielding in remote handled containers.

Benefits of this project –

- Demonstrates DOE-owned material can be melted and reused by external vendors for DOE end use in a cost-efficient manner.
- Provides a roadmap for future material specific recycle/reuse campaigns to meet enterprise-wide needs.
- Reduce Department-level lifecycle project costs by lowering the cost for disposition and acquisition.
- Insulate DOE from supply chain interruptions by keeping source material internal to the Department.
- Provides a lessons-learned to expand recycle/reuse of contaminated materials.

Lead	Estimated
Uncontaminated	229,382 lbs.
Contaminated and releasable/cleaned	109,054 lbs.

* Inventories as of 4/1/2026, of varying forms.



RR CoP – Completed Projects

Completed

- 4 Portable Storage Units were transferred to Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) for reuse. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) purchased these units for 250k each in 1994.
- ANL had planned to retire and recycle the units for its metal but instead BNL was able to reuse these units resulting in reduced risks to worker safety and increase efficiency by increasing their storage space for chemical containers.



The total cost avoidance:

- BNL saved the cost of purchasing new units approximately 250K (only paying 14k for shipping).
- ANL saved the cost of transportation for recycle or disposal and the cost of disposition of these units.

<https://www.energy.gov/em/articles/em-leads-collaboration-helping-doe-recycle-and-reuse-materials-equipment>

RR CoP – Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, need or have any excess materials and equipment (uncontaminated or contaminated), or would like to join!

Email the CoP: DOEReuseRecycle@doe.gov

Or

Shannon.Chester@em.doe.gov

Shirley.Xu@em.doe.gov

SharePoint site: [DOE / NNSA Communities of Practice \(CoP\) Reuse and Recycle](#)





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RR CoP – Excess Inventories

Excess Available:

- ANL has zinc bromide (now).
- Paducah has 16 - 50kg drums of magnesium fluoride pellets that are excess and available for reuse (now).
- LLNL, National Ignition Facility (NIF) modernization project – approximately 1,800 glass plates with mercury epoxy. (2025)
- LBNL, Advanced Light Source (ALS) project will provide - 410 MT of metal from storage rings and 23 MT of lead shield blocks (2026)
- BNL, Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) project will provide – 200 MT of steel and potential metals from cables slated for waste. (2026)

Excess Needed:

- Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab) – in need of 580 tons of low-contaminated non-ferrous metals to make 10 55-ton shield blocks. (TBD)

