

Use of ASTM Standard Guide for Greener Cleanups E2893-13 Frequently Asked Questions

ASTM does not provide interpretations of standards. The answers are personal opinions of task group members that developed this standard, and do not represent the consensus of the committee or ASTM.

Use of Standard Guide

What does the user need to do to follow the BMP process?

The BMP process has five steps:

1. List the BMPs applicable to the site conditions;
2. Prioritize the BMPs based on those that are expected to provide the greatest environmental footprint reductions, based on professional judgment;
3. Select those BMPs that will be applied and provide rationale (e.g., cost, effectiveness) for those that will not be implemented;
4. Implement the selected BMPs and document those not implemented due to field conditions or new information; and
5. Document the following: a prioritized list of BMPs implemented and rationale for BMPs retained during the initial screen (Step 1) but not implemented. The user also needs to document any BMPs required by law or policy.

Does the user need to quantify anticipated environmental footprint reductions?

No. Performance of a quantitative evaluation (e.g. environmental footprint assessment) is optional. The Standard Guide suggests that a quantitative evaluation is best suited to relatively large-scale or complex cleanups where a range of approaches could be implemented to achieve the objectives for a certain cleanup phase.

What are the sources for the best management practices (BMPs) included in the Standard Guide?

The Greener Cleanup Standard Task group relied on CLU-IN fact sheets available at www.clu-in.org/greenremediation/, the US Army Corp of Engineers checklist, consultants' checklists and industry experts.

Does the user need to wait until they complete the cleanup to report results?

No. The Standard Guide is flexible. It allows for the user to apply the Standard Guide and prepare a report after a cleanup phase (e.g., site investigation) or multiple phases. The Standard Guide recommends that the user report results after implementation of cleanup activities to demonstrate that the greener cleanup activities selected through use of the Standard Guide were implemented. However, the Standard Guide recognizes that there are situations where it is

appropriate to report evaluation results prior to implementation. For example, there may be an extended period of time between remedy selection and remedy design/implementation. In that situation, the user can report that the documentation reflects only a greener cleanup evaluation and not implementation.

Does ASTM offer any supporting tools?

Yes. ASTM offers two tools called adjuncts. One adjunct is Appendix X2 Technical Summary Form in a writable PDF format. It helps a user report results in conformance with the Standard Guide by providing the reporting expectations in a template. The other adjunct is Appendix X3.1 BMP Table in a spreadsheet format. The spreadsheet is equipped with a sort function that enables the user to sort BMPs based on potentially applicable technologies or by core element.

Where can I find general information about ASTM's Standard Guide for Greener Cleanups?

Go to the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency response Greener Cleanup Standard Initiative website, www.epa.gov/oswer/greenercleanups/standard.html. It includes Standard Guide highlights and background information. You can also go to EPA's CLU-IN website, www.clu-in.org/greenremediation/ for an April 25, 2014 webinar on the Standard Guide and for additional resources on greener cleanups.

Who can answer question about use of the Standard Guide within the context of EPA's cleanup programs?

You should contact EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response greener cleanup program contacts at www.epa.gov/oswer/greenercleanups/basic.html#POC. They are knowledgeable about the Standard Guide. For site specific questions, you should discuss with the regulator responsible for the project's oversight how this guide could be incorporated into the cleanup and whether the regulator deems it appropriate for the user to report the process and results to the regulatory program.

Does it cost more to implement a greener cleanup?

Not necessarily. The Standard Guide indicates that the user should implement BMPs that reduce or have no effect on the project cost, unless there is a specific reason not to do so. Users may elect to implement BMPs even if implementation results in an increase in project cost, but that is not required by the Standard Guide.

Is ASTM's Standard Guide for Greener Cleanup different from ASTM's Standard Guide for Integrating Sustainable Objectives into Cleanup?

Yes. The Standard Guide for Integrating Sustainable Objectives into Cleanup, ASTM E2876-13, has a broader scope, which includes economic and social outcomes of a cleanup.

Access to the Standard Guide and Costs

How do I get a copy of the Standard Guide?

Some organizations may already have access to the standard through an ASTM subscription. If not, the standard can be purchased at the ASTM website www.astm.org/Standards/E2893.htm.

Are the two adjuncts included with the subscription?

No. Individuals need to purchase the adjuncts separately through ASTM at www.astm.org/Standards/E2893.htm


How much does the Standard Guide and the adjuncts cost?

ASTM has set up the following purchase structure for the Standard Guide and adjuncts:

- ASTM Standard Guide only \$60
- Appendix X2 Technical Summary Form in writable PDF \$49
- Appendix X3 BMP Table in Excel format \$59
- ASTM Standard Guide and Appendix X2 Technical Summary Form in writable PDF format \$93
- ASTM Standard Guide and Appendix X3 BMP Table in Excel format \$102
- ASTM Standard Guide and both adjuncts \$134

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