



3rd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“CLEANER PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD”

Re-engineering Process to Reach Sustainability in Laboratories of the University of Sonora

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Abstract

There are several ways to contribute to sustainability in higher education institutions. One of them is the implementation of programs for handling hazardous wastes and materials that reduce or eliminate the impacts on health and the environment in laboratories and workshops. This paper presents a research on Mexican universities environmental programs that are integrated into the Mexican Consortium Universities Environmental Programs for Sustainable Development (COMPLEXUS) and in the Institutional Program of Environmental Health and Safety of University of Sonora (PISSA-UNISON), to know the tendencies in the management of hazardous materials and wastes and to propose recommendations to improve this line of action of PISSA-UNISON. In addition, a survey to laboratories users to diagnose their knowledge about general aspects of sustainability and safe management of hazardous materials and wastes on campus was conducted to this end. The students, who had taken environmental, health and safety and sustainability courses, and professors, were interviewed. Results showed deficiencies on safety and pollution prevention practices in laboratories. A plan to improve safety in laboratory practices under PISSA-UNISON framework was proposed to strengthen this program as a contribution towards sustainability. Greater institutional support and agglutination of isolated efforts are considered essential to achieve sustainability on campus.

Keywords: *Sustainability, PISSA-UNISON, Hazardous wastes and materials, Environmental Programs, Sustainable Development*

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