

"Making our buildings more energy efficient is one of the fastest, easiest and cheapest ways for us to create jobs, save money, and cut down on harmful pollution.

-President Obama

December 2nd, 2011

In remarks on the Better Buildings Initiative

CEQ News

President Obama Announces Nearly \$4 Billion Investment in Energy Upgrades to Public and Private Buildings

On December 2nd, President Obama announced nearly \$4 billion in combined federal and private sector energy upgrades to buildings over the next 2 years. The \$4 billion investment includes a \$2 billion commitment, made through the issuance of a Presidential Memorandum, to energy upgrades of federal buildings using long term energy savings to pay for up-front costs, at no cost to taxpayers.

In addition, 60 CEOs, mayors, university presidents, and labor leaders today committed to invest nearly \$2 billion of private capital into energy efficiency projects; and to upgrade energy performance by a minimum of 20% by 2020 in 1.6 billion square feet of office, industrial, municipal, hospital, university, community college and school buildings. The commitments were announced by President Obama and former President Clinton along with representatives from more than 60 organizations as part of the [Better Buildings Challenge](#).

2011 GreenGov Symposium brings together Federal Agencies



From left: Current CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley; Past CEQ chairs George Frampton and Jim Connaughton; Moderator Dan Fiorino

Over 1,200 government, private sector, NGO and academic leaders attended the two and a half day GreenGov Symposium sponsored by CEQ and the Association of Climate Change Officers. The second annual symposium was held October 31 through November 2 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. and included 79 panel discussions on issues reflecting implementation of Executive Order 13514 including sustainable planning, fleet management, clean energy and climate risk and resilience. Highlights of the GreenGov Symposium included:

- Opening remarks from Jacob Lew, Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Nancy Sutley, Chair of CEQ; and Martha Johnson, Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA)
- A plenary panel discussion among current CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley and past

GreenGov Award Winners

This year nearly 250 submissions were received in the six categories for the 2011 Presidential GreenGov Awards, recognizing excellence in Federal sustainability initiatives.

Good Neighbor Award

*Grand Canyon Green Team
Department of the Interior*

Building the Future Award

*Naval Base San Diego
Department of Defense*

*Office of Facilities Management
Department of State*

Green Dream Team Award

*Federal Green Challenge
Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 10*

Green Innovation Award

*National Renewable Energy Lab,
Department of Energy*

Lean, Clean and Green Award

*National Aeronautics and Space
Administration*

Department of Veterans Affairs

Sustainability Hero Award

*Shannon Cunniff, Department of
Defense*

Read more on the 2011 [GreenGov Award recipients](#).

CEQ Chairs George Frampton and Jim Connaughton on the continued evolution of sustainability in the Federal Government

- A [webcast panel discussion](#) on the Federal Government's leadership in sustainability including panelists Brian Deese, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council; Michelle Moore, Federal Environmental Executive; Michael Robertson, Chief of Staff, GSA; Rachel Tronstein, Clean Energy Advisor, DOE; and Jonathan Powers, Special Advisor on Energy, Department of Defense (DoD).

View GreenGov speaker [presentations](#).

2011 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans Released on Performance.gov

In July the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) launched Performance.gov to provide a way for the nation to track the Federal Government's performance and accountability in several areas, including sustainability. The sustainability content on Performance.gov demonstrates Federal agencies' progress on near-term priority goals and government-wide management efforts, including agency progress towards achieving the energy and sustainability goals in E.O. 13514. [Sustainability.performance.gov](#) includes links to agency annual Sustainability Plans, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and OMB Sustainability and Energy Scorecards.

CEQ Releases Guidance for Sustainable Landscaping at Federal Facilities

On October 31, CEQ issued [Guidance on Sustainable Practices by Federal Agencies for Designed Landscapes](#). The guidance describes strategies for sustainable use of water and land, conservation of soils and vegetation, support of natural ecosystem functions, conservation of materials, and promotion of human health and well-being. This guidance is to be used by Federal agencies for landscape practices when constructing new, or rehabilitating existing, owned or leased facilities, or when landscaping improvements are otherwise planned.

CEQ Releases Instructions for Implementing Sustainable Locations for Federal Facilities

In September CEQ Chair Sutley directed Federal agencies to improve sustainability performance by balancing consideration and evaluation of land use, the built environment, cost, security, mission need and competition when selecting locations for Federal facilities. The [Instructions for Implementing Sustainable Locations for Federal Facilities](#) direct Agencies to seek sites that maximize the use of existing resources, foster protection of the natural environment, and advance local and regional

planning goals. When selecting sites, Agencies are also instructed to prioritize central business districts and rural town centers, locations that promote transportation choice, and locations that are accessible to a diverse range of employees and visitors.

Presidential Memorandum on Fleet Performance

The [Presidential Memorandum on Fleet Performance](#) signed by President Obama on May 24, 2011 required that agencies post information regarding executive fleet vehicles on a publically available website by late November. This information is available in GSA's [Vehicle Management Library](#). The memorandum also directed GSA to develop a [Vehicle Allocation Methodology](#) for use by Agencies in developing fleet management practices.

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Guidance for Law Enforcement and Emergency Vehicle Fleets

On November 15, GSA issued [Alternative Fuel Vehicle Guidance for Law Enforcement and Emergency Vehicle Fleets](#). The guidance reflects the Presidential Memorandum on Fleet Performance that requires that by December 31, 2015, all new light duty vehicles leased or purchased by agencies must be alternative fuel vehicles. However, the "head of an agency may exempt vehicles used for law enforcement, protective, emergency response, or military tactical operations of that agency from the provisions of the memorandum." GSA directs Agencies to implement policies that ensure that law enforcement and emergency vehicles are the smallest, most fuel efficient, and least greenhouse gas emitting vehicles necessary to execute mission requirements and to place AFVs into use only where the appropriate alternative fuel is available and require vehicle operators to use the alternative fuel to the maximum extent possible.

Procurement Data System Accommodates Sustainability Data

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy has released a memorandum on [Improving Sustainable Acquisition and Reporting](#). The memorandum highlights changes to the Federal Procurement Data System to "better capture sustainability-related data on mandatory purchase requirements." Notably, the data field for recording purchases of recycled content products has been expanded to include energy efficient products, biobased products, environmentally preferable products, or combinations of products.

Draft Guidance on NEPA Efficiencies

On December 7, CEQ released [draft guidance](#) for Federal agencies on improving the efficiency and timeliness of their environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Currently, CEQ's NEPA regulations describe efficiencies that can be applied when preparing Environmental Impact Statements, the most intensive type

of NEPA environmental review. The draft guidance clarifies that these efficiencies can and should be applied to all types of environmental reviews, including Environmental Assessments.

Agency News

National Park Service Painted Hill Unit Adds Electric Vehicle to Carbon-Neutral Facility

Earlier this year, National Park Service's (NPS) Painted Hills Unit Park House added an electric, low speed vehicle in the effort to create an energy self-sufficient facility in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The addition of this electric vehicle, which is on loan



from Polaris—a manufacturer of off-road vehicles—represents the next step toward creating entirely carbon-neutral operations at the facility. The car will be charged by the excess solar energy Park House produces through its solar PV system. The [Painted Hills Park House](#), contracted and constructed in 2010, is entirely powered by solar energy and contains many energy-saving features such as a high efficiency heat pump, triple-sealed doors, and appliances that meet higher standards than Energy Star appliances.

Department of Energy, Defense Partner to Install Fuel Cell Backup Power Units

On July 19, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced an [interagency partnership](#) with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to strengthen American energy security and develop new clean energy technologies. As part of this effort, DOD will be installing and operating 18 fuel cell backup power systems at eight military installations across the country. Compared with diesel generators, which are often used for backup power, fuel cells use no petroleum, are quieter, and produce fewer pollutants and emissions. Fuel cells also typically require less maintenance than either generators or batteries, and can easily be monitored remotely to reduce maintenance time. Reducing or replacing fossil fuels with clean energy technologies like fuel cells can help address the vulnerabilities and improve energy security at military facilities across the United States and ultimately across the globe.

The following eight military installations will be receiving emergency fuel cell backup power units:

- Fort Bragg, NC
- Fort Hood, TX

- The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY
- Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
- Picatinny Arsenal, NJ
- Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base, CO
- U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, CA
- The Ohio National Guard, Columbus, OH

Army Opens Green Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir



On August 10, the Army Corps of Engineers and US Army opened a new [community hospital at Fort Belvoir](#). The facility is being

constructed on an old golf course and efforts to make the site more sustainable include a green roof to reduce water runoff, native and adaptive vegetation planted around the site area, and permeable paving in the parking spaces. This 1.3 million square feet complex utilizes energy- and water-saving technologies such as a rainwater collection system to reduce potable water usage. All rooms in the hospital were designed to incorporate natural lighting and outside views. This project is targeted to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification and is expected to save \$80,000 in water and \$474,000 in energy.

Army and EPA Collaborate on Net Zero Initiative

On November 28, the Army and EPA signed a memorandum of understanding to partner on green energy initiatives. EPA will help Army find ways to achieve Net Zero goals. The EPA is using their research to help Army examine waste streams for opportunities. The effort will investigate reducing water consumption and recycling waste water. [Read more](#) on the Net Zero collaboration.



Announcements

- [President Obama Issues Memorandum: Implementation of Energy Savings Projects and Performance-Based Contracting for Energy Savings](#)
- [FY 11 Compliance and Enforcement Annual Results](#)
- [GSA Offers Scope 3 Commuter Survey with Carbon Footprint Tool](#)
- [Green Products Compilation v10](#)
- [Call for Proposals for Greenbuild 2012](#)
- [GreenGov 2011 Proceedings Posted](#)
- [National Federal Facilities Compliance and Enforcement FY2012 Program Agenda](#)
- [Executive Order 13589: Promoting Efficient Spending](#)
This EO promotes Agency reductions in travel, IT devices, printing, vehicle fleets, and extraneous promotional items
- [2011 Progress Report of the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force](#)
- [The Northern Region Review - November 2011](#)
- [The Southern Region Review - November 2011](#)

Upcoming Events

January 2012

1/10 [Principles of Natural Resources Management](#)
(Until 1/11)

1/18 [12th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment](#) (Until 1/20)

February 2012

2/1 [New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy, and Liveable Communities](#) (Until 2/4)

2/7 [Carbon Management Technology Conference](#)
(Until 2/9)

2/15 [UF Water Institute Symposium](#) (Until 2/16)

2/27 [Advanced Energy Summit](#) (Until 2/29)

FY 2011 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reporting

Federal Agency Greenhouse Gas Inventories are due January 31, 2012. Visit [Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reporting](#) on fedcenter.gov for submission instructions, calculation workbooks, and FAQs.

*The GreenGov Leader
Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President*