

"It's a good day in the fight for cleaner air. It's a good day in the fight for healthier communities. And it's a good day in the fight to protect our environment for the generations of Americans still to come."

-President Obama

December 21st, 2011

On EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

Agency News

National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy Released for Public Comment

The draft [National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) is an integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive response to the threats of climate change. This multi-partner effort will outline a unified approach to maintaining the key terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems needed to sustain fish, wildlife and plant resources and the services they provide in the face of accelerating climate change. The draft strategy is available for [public review and comment](#) until March 5th, 2012.

Navy Purchases 1 Gigawatt of Renewable Energy

In his recent State of the Union speech, the President announced that the Department of the Navy will make the largest renewable energy purchase in history – one gigawatt. The Department of Navy has committed to adding 1 gigawatt of renewable energy produced from sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal to its energy portfolio for shore-side installations – enough to power 250,000 homes. Using existing authorities such as power purchase agreements, the Navy will ensure these energy projects are cost neutral and require no up-front investments by the government.



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Sailors, and Marines await President Obama's remarks on energy initiatives at Buckley Air Force Base.

Federal Agencies Acquire Plug-in Hybrids

GSA recently delivered the first electric hybrid vehicles to federal agencies as part of a 116 vehicle pilot program. Vehicles included in the pilot are the Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, and Think City. Charging stations are being installed for 22 agencies in nine cities across the country. The charging infrastructure is being offered through AutoFlex, Carbon Day, LLC, and Siemens using Eaton and Siemens technology. Facilities that receive electric charging stations will need to coordinate with building management and utilities to discuss charging station locations and any other needs. The pilot program will help to establish charging infrastructure throughout the federal building portfolio and collect data on plug-in electric hybrid vehicle usage.

Since the pilot was launched in May of 2011, GSA has expanded the options for agencies to purchase or lease electric vehicles to include the Mitsubishi i, the Ford Focus Electric, and the Ford Transit Connect.

State Department Incentivizes Bicycling

State Department now offers to cover commuting expenses for employees *pedaling* to work. The purpose of the Bicycle Reimbursement Program is to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, as well as to promote wellness among Federal employees, by encouraging employees to use pedaled (nonmotorized) bicycles as their primary means of commuting to and from work. The program is intended to assist an employee in the purchase, repair, and/or maintenance of a nonmotorized bicycle that the employee uses as a primary means of commuting to and from work. Bicycle expenses are reimbursed up to \$240 a year. Learn more on [Implementing a Successful Bicycle and Active Commuting Program in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area](#).

U.S. Treasury Building Receives LEED gold

On December 21st, 2011 the Main Treasury Building in Washington, D.C. [received LEED Gold](#) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). According to the USGBC, the Treasury Building is believed to be the oldest building in the world to receive LEED certification. The certification was attained based on a number of green construction and operation features, including:

- Increasing the use of natural day lighting to reduce energy consumption;
- Establishing sustainable cleaning and landscape programs;
- Developing and implementing advanced control and management of the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems;
- Conducting waste stream audits to benchmark recycling programs and identify opportunities to maximize material conservation;
- Creating a green procurement program for materials, equipment and services purchased;
- Increasing occupant space utilization;
- Augmenting alternate transportation means; and
- Establishing enhanced utility metering for improved systems management.

Project results, which represent an estimated \$3.5 million in energy and lease cost savings annually, include: a 43% decrease in the use of potable water; a 7% decrease in electrical usage; a 53% decrease in the use of steam; and 164 additional workstations within the building. Watch [Assistant Secretary Dan Tangherlini discuss how Treasury achieved this unique distinction](#).



Main Treasury Building

Navy Solar Farm Construction Underway

On January 18th, the Navy broke ground on a 118 acre [solar farm in China Lake, CA](#). The solar photovoltaic power system constructed by SunPower will generate 13.78 megawatts, providing power for more than 30 percent of Naval Air Weapons Station's annual energy load. The installation was made possible through a 20 year power purchase agreement, reducing costs by an estimated \$13 million over the 20 year period.

On December 5th, 2011 Navy also signed a contract to purchase 450,000 gallons of bio-fuel, the single largest purchase of biofuel in government history. The purchase helps to decrease the military's dependence on foreign oil.



Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Navy's newest solar farm at Naval Weapons Station China Lake.

Sustainable Renovation in HHS Parklawn Building

Recently, the GSA completed a competitive process to replace the current lease at the Parklawn Building in the Rockville area of Montgomery County, Maryland. Included in the lease is a requirement to completely renovate the Parklawn Building. The New Parklawn Building will be a modern, efficient, sustainable and attractive office building that meets the needs of its tenants.

Four Operating Divisions and portions of the Program Support Center will be consolidated in the New Parklawn Building, saving tax payers millions of dollars each year. From a mission and economic standpoint, this is a very positive step by HHS. In addition, the Department believes that a new, modern, efficient, and well appointed building will be very desirable for the Department's employees. New Parklawn Building employees will be located much nearer to employees of other divisions with whom they work routinely and will be provided contemporary, state of the art facilities.



Announcements

- [EPA Region 9 Seeks Environmental Award Nominees](#)
- [EPA Region 2 Seeks Nominees for 2012 Environmental Quality Awards](#)
- [Climate Ready Estuaries 2011 Progress Report Released](#)
- [EPA Releases Polychlorinated Biphenyl \(PCB\) Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) Handbook](#)
- [DoD REC Update, December 2011](#)
- [EPA and Air Force Collaborate on Greener Cleanups](#)
- [Army Sustainability Report 2010 Released](#)
- [USDA Requests Comments on Draft Environmental Justice Strategy](#)
- [EPA Issues First National Standards for Mercury Pollution from Power Plants](#)
- [R.I. Army National Guard Installs Corrosion Control System to Comply with EPA Order](#)

Upcoming Events

February 2012

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

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

March 2012

3/6 [Annual Military Energy Alternatives](#) (Until 3/8)

3/11 [International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management](#) (Until 3/14)

3/11 [Minerals, Metals & Materials Society Annual Meeting](#) (Until 3/15)

3/18 [Sustainable Water Management Conference](#) (Until 3/21)

3/26 [DoD Environmental Monitoring and Data Quality Workshop](#) (Until 3/29)

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