

"This country's on the path towards more energy independence – and that's good for everybody."

-President Obama

*Newton, Iowa
May 24th, 2012*

CEQ News

National Academies Sustainability Symposium

CEQ participated in the National Academies symposium, "Science, Innovation, and Partnership for Sustainability Solutions," held on May 16-18th. Federal Environmental Executive Jon Powers spoke as part of a panel session focused on creating partnerships for sustainability, science, and action. The overarching theme of the symposium showcased Federal investments and institutional structures in the areas sustainability and identify opportunities to help promote practices that would lead communities toward sustainability. More information, including the keynote address and PowerPoint presentations can be found [here](#).



2012 GreenGov Symposium – Call for Abstracts Closes June 1

The last date to submit abstracts for the 2012 GreenGov Symposium – *Leading by Example*, is June 1. CEQ and the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) will be working with speakers to build an informative dialogue on innovative and leading-edge sustainability concepts and policies. This year, a variety of sessions will be convened to fully explore and exchange ideas, challenges, and best practices between Federal government, private sector, NGO, state and local government, and academic attendees. More information and a full list of potential topic areas may be found [here](#).

The 2012 GreenGov Symposium – *Leading by Example* main conference program will be held September 24 and 25, and post-conference meetings and workshops will be conducted

on September 26 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Find out more at greengov2012.org.

FedCenter Continues to Accept Nominees for the 2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards

Nominations are still being accepted for the 2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards. As in past years, the awards categories include Sustainability Hero; Green Innovation; Lean, Clean, and Green; Good Neighbor; Green Dream Team; and Building the Future. To be eligible for an individual award, the nominee must be a Federal civilian or military employee. For team awards, eligibility may include a Federal partner including a Federal contractor, tribal/state/local agency, or non-profit organization. Nominations must be submitted by a Federal employee through the FedCenter website, www.fedcenter.gov by June 15, 2012. Further information and an explanation of the award categories can be found [here](#).

Agency 2012 Sustainability Plans

Under Executive Order 13514, Federal agencies are required to develop, implement and annually update a plan that prioritizes actions based on a positive return on investment and to meet GHG emissions, energy, water, and waste reduction targets. The 2012 Plans are due to CEQ and OMB June 29 and will be publically released later this year on the performance.gov website.

In early May, the 2012 Sustainability Plan template was revised to reduce the time it takes users to load the electronic template. Many agencies have completed initial data entry and agencies are expecting to meet the June 29 due date for submission.

Agency News

15th Annual GovEnergy Conference

For 15 years, GovEnergy has brought together the nation's leaders in policy, technology and operations to address energy management in the Federal government. This year's conference will be held August 19 -22 in St. Louis, MO, hosting over 150 training sessions within 19 topic tracks. The sessions will encourage and facilitate the sharing of ideas, tools, and success stories to support the goals of existing energy and environmental statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders. In addition to the August event, GovEnergy offers a new monthly webinar series with live sessions from last year's workshop. Visit the GovEnergy website for more information on the 2012 conference.

The EPA's Federal Green Challenge

The Federal Green Challenge is a national initiative under U.S. EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program, challenging federal agencies across the country to lead by example in reducing the Federal Government's environmental impact. Agencies can demonstrate and share innovative techniques for reducing their environmental footprint while taking advantage of EPA's technical assistance and resources to implement and exceed the requirements of Executive Orders 13514.

After launching the Federal Green Challenge nationwide in 2011, over 200 agencies and individual facilities have joined the effort, which has already shown considerable success in the EPA's Northwest Region 10 pilot program. Federal Green Challenge participants must set a goal of at least a 5% reduction in the next year in at least two of the six target areas including: energy, transportation, waste, water, electronics and purchasing. More information on the Federal Green Challenge can be found [here](#).

GSA Initial Report on Green Building Certification Systems Released

The U.S. General Services Administration recently released its draft review of Green Building Certification Systems to determine applicability to requirements for Federal buildings. This initial report is the first step in an extensive review process – including a public comment period – that evaluates tools that could help Federal agencies meet their goals for maintaining and constructing more sustainable and efficient buildings.

After the most recent evaluation of green building certification systems in April, GSA narrowed the field to systems that employed whole building evaluations, are available within the U.S. market, and have third party certifications. Three certification systems passed the screening criteria: Green Building Initiative's Green Globes, U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and the International Living Building Challenge. The initial findings from GSA revealed that none of the three building certification systems cover 100% of the Federal building requirements for new construction, major renovations, or existing buildings. GSA will hold public listening sessions for members of the public to provide feedback on its review.

GSA also convened an interagency review group to evaluate and make recommendations on how to guide government construction towards meeting the goals of Executive Order 13514. The interagency task is co-chaired by GSA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. Agencies with large portfolio holdings such as the Department of State, National Park Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Forest Service have also been invited to take part. The review group's findings will be shared through a notice-and-comment period advertised in the Federal Register.

Following public comment, GSA, DOD, and DOE will develop formal recommendations on how green building certification systems should be used to facilitate high performance in the federal sector. GSA expects to make its final recommendation to the Secretary of Energy in fall of 2012. The draft review is available [here](#).



Announcements

- [The Youth Sustainability Challenge: Creating an America Built to Last](#)
- [Supporting our Troops with Better Energy Options Blog](#)
- [Call for Abstracts for 2012 GreenGov Symposium](#)
- [CEQ Announces 2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards](#)

Upcoming Events

June

- 6/1 [GreenGov Symposium Call for Abstracts Closes](#)
- 6/7 [Streamlining ESPCs for Small Sites Training](#)
- 6/7 [EPA's Suite of P2 Measurement Tools Calculate GHG Reductions and Economic Savings Training](#)
- 6/14 [Ask the Inspector – Your Stormwater Challenges at Federal Facilities Webinar](#)
- 6/15 [GreenGov Awards Nomination Process Closes](#)
- 6/19 [Driving BioPreferred® with the Presidential Memorandum, a free 60-minute online training seminar](#)
- 6/21 [World Green Energy Symposium](#)
- 6/28 [Pre-GovEnergy 2012 Workshop: Federal Guiding Principles Compliance Using ENERGYSTAR Portfolio Manager Webinar](#)

July

- 7/5 [Uncle Sam as a Polluter Webinar](#)
- 7/12 [Implementing Deep Retrofits Webinar](#)
- 7/17 [ESPC Comprehensive Workshop Webinar](#)

Have success stories to share? OFEE is interested in hearing what your agency has done in implementing energy efficient and environmentally preferable practices. Let us know what successes you have had and any savings you have realized. Send a brief description and photo if available to greenov@fedcenter.gov.

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive - Council on Environmental Quality - Executive Office of the President