

# The greengov Leader

Council on Environmental Quality

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Issue 1

“Our Nation must continue to lead the world in a rapidly evolving energy market by pursuing safe and responsible domestic energy production, promoting efficiency, and developing clean energy and renewable fuels.”

- President Obama, National Energy Action Month, October 1, 2012

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## CEQ News

### CEQ Announces GreenGov Spotlight Communities

Calling all Federal agencies, bureaus, offices, and installations: GreenGov is looking to spotlight cross-agency projects that are helping Federal agencies achieve the energy and sustainability targets in *Executive Order 13514 – Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance*. A Spotlight Community demonstrates the benefit of Federal agencies leading by example, working together, and with neighbors and stakeholders, including state and local government entities, area businesses, and non-profit organizations, to help achieve a goal or target under E.O. 13514.



Federal teams working with other agencies to reduce their environmental footprint through joint purchasing agreements, fleet sharing, or other E.O. 13514 projects, may be eligible to become GreenGov Spotlight Communities. More information, and the online application form, is available at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/opportunities/awards/spotlightcommunities/>. Applications are due by November 16, 2012.

### White House Hosts Energy Datapalooza

As part of the [Energy Data Initiative](#), the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy hosted an [Energy Datapalooza](#) on October 1, 2012, that brought together over 150 of the nation's top entrepreneurs who are using publicly available government data to build products, services, and apps.

Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley, and U.S. Chief Technology Officer Todd Park delivered keynotes for the event.

During the event, Secretary Chu announced the winners of the inaugural [Apps for Energy](#) challenge as well as two new challenges – the Vehicles Data Challenge to improve safety and fuel efficiency, and the SXSW ECO Code-a-thon to help consumer make informed energy choices. DOE also announced the release of 20 new datasets in addition to more than 900 federal datasets currently available on [Energy.Data.Gov](#).

## Agency News

### Green Data Centers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is leading by example in energy efficiency at its data center. In 2007, the data center was believed to be at capacity and in need of expansion. Instead of expanding the footprint of the data center, extensive changes were made to the infrastructure including a wireless sensor network, virtualization and consolidation, and modified controllable air conditioning units. These modifications mean that the data center is now able to operate at 50% above what was thought to be the capacity in 2007. The data center is one of the first in the world with real-time view of power utilization effectiveness, helping staff better manage energy use and to reduce environmental impact. The changes made at the data center are considered replicable for other centers that need to upgrade to modern efficiency standards.

The Department of Energy lab recently received two awards recognizing these efforts – the [Director's Achievement Award](#) and the Larry Sautter Award from the University of California.

### Navy Flips the Switch on Solar Power at China Lake

Located in California's Mojave Desert, the [new power plant](#) at the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake is online and providing up to 13.78-megawatts of photovoltaic solar power. The solar power plant was built to meet 30 percent of China Lake's onsite energy demand, which spans 1.1 million acres of land and includes more than 2,100 buildings. The first Federal project to be financed through a 20-year Federal Solar Power Purchase Agreement, the power plant was built at no-cost to taxpayers, and will be providing energy that is less expensive than other energy options. The Navy estimates the China Lake solar power plant will save approximately \$13 million in utility costs over the next 20 years.

### 2012 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

As part of Energy Action Month, the Department of Energy announced the winners of the [31st Federal Energy and Water Management Awards](#), recognizing agency efforts to reduce energy use and save taxpayers money. The 2011 winners saved six trillion Btu of energy, nearly two billion gallons of water, and nearly \$165 million. Five of the winners utilized Energy Saving Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts, allowing them to improve energy and water efficiency without any upfront capital costs. The winners represented the Departments of Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, Interior, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs; the General Services



Assistant Secretary David Danielson speaking on Monday, October 1, 2012 at the Energy Datapalooza. Photo Credit: Matthew Loveless, DOE.



The October 19, 2012 China Lake solar power plant dedication ceremony. Photo Credit: US Navy.

Administration; and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A full list of the winners can be found [here](#).

### **Commit to Efficiency Campaign Kicks Off**

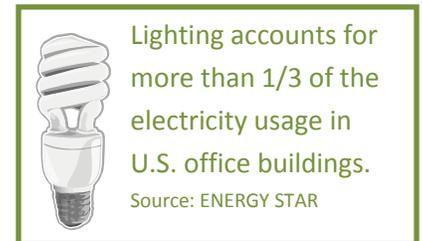
The Department of Energy is challenging Federal agencies to commit to increase purchasing of energy-efficient products. Through the Commit to Efficiency Campaign, federal procurement officials, facility managers, energy managers, and anyone else involved in purchasing decisions can take the pledge to make their agency more energy-efficient through smarter purchasing decisions. For more information on the Commit to Efficiency Campaign: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/commit.html>.

### **GSA Study on Responsive Lighting and Reducing Energy Costs**

The General Services Administration recently evaluated the performance of responsive lighting systems and found significant annual energy savings ranging from 27 percent to 63 percent at seven test sites in five buildings.

The technology in the study consisted of a workstation-specific (WS) lighting system, dimmable ballasts, occupancy sensors, and a control system that coordinated these components. The study recommends selective deployment at workplaces with long operating hours, expensive utility costs, and highly variable occupancy. The energy savings and payback for the technology varied based on occupancy demands. The study estimated the payback for a call center that was illuminated 18 hours a day, seven days a week to be seven years.

The study is part of GSA's Green Proving Ground (GPG) program and was conducted in association with DOE's Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory. The full report can be found [here](#).



### **EPA Announces New Electronic System for Environmental Reviews**

As of October 1, 2012, all agencies are required to use the e-NEPA electronic filing system to file Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) to EPA Headquarters under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Paper copies and CDs will no longer be accepted. The new process eliminates the need to mail or deliver paper copies, reducing printing, shipping, and delivery costs.

Other Federal agencies, including Regional EPA offices, have not changed their requirements for EIS review. Please contact your EPA Regional Office with specific questions. More information on e-NEPA is available [here](#).



### **Announcements**

CEQ Blog – [Energy Datapalooza: Unleashing the Power of Open Data to Advance our Energy Future](#)

U.S. Army- October edition of the [Southern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions](#) and the [Northern Review of Legislative & Regulatory Actions](#)

DOE - [Guidance for the Implementation and Follow-up of Identified Energy and Water Efficiency Measures in Covered Facilities](#)

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **November**

11/6-11/8 [Comprehensive Polychlorinated Biphenyls Training \(Classroom\)](#)

11/7-11/8 [Fire Safety Design and Sustainable Buildings \(Classroom\)](#)

- 11/8 [Effective Utility Management and Lean at Water-Sector Utilities \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/13-11/17 [Greenbuild](#)
- 11/14 [Ask the Inspector Workshop: Industrial Stormwater Requirements at Federal Facilities \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/14 [Federal Green Challenge – Online Data Management System Training \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/14 [Federal Green Challenge – Overview \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/16 [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act: Cradle to Grave \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/20 [District Heating with Renewable Energy \(Webinar\)](#)
- 11/27-11/30 [NWCC Wind Wildlife Research Meeting](#)
- December**
- 12/5-12/6 [AWEA Regional Wind Energy Summit - Southwest](#)

**Have success stories to share?**

We are 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 [greengov@fedcenter.gov](mailto:greengov@fedcenter.gov).

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