

The best path to clean water is partnership – among all levels of government, the private sector, non-profits and the public. It is because of partnership that we made so much progress during the past 40 years, and it partnership that will ensure we build upon that progress over the next 40 years.

– Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator, on October 1, 2012 at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference

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CEQ News

2012 Progress Report on America's Great Outdoors Released

On December 4, 2012, CEQ released the [2012 progress report](#) on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative. The report includes success stories since the launch of AGO in April 2010, highlighting cases where agencies have worked together and with private sector, non-profit and community partners to provide economic and recreational opportunities to the public. The AGO successes includes the launch of the "America the Beautiful Pass," which allows members of the armed services and their families to visit national parks free of charge. Other projects include investment in the Youth Conservation Corps, expanding outdoor learning opportunities, the designation of four new National Monuments, the Urban Water Federal Partnership, and the establishment of a new National Water Trails System. More information on AGO is available [here](#).

Agency News

2012 Better Buildings Federal Award Winner Announced

With an energy use reduction of 53% over 12 months, Department of Interior's Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility in Alamogordo, New Mexico has won the 2012 Better Buildings Federal Award Competition. The facility used the multiple strategies to cut its energy use in half: altered the building's HVAC control settings, and adjusted landscape lighting durations, 24-hour lighting, and indoor night lighting to minimize

energy use during unoccupied hours. The DOI facility came in first out of seven other federal agency facilities that were selected as finalists for the 2012 competition. To read more about the 2012 Challenge, and the facilities taking part in the 2013 Challenge, go to:

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=814.

National Water Program 2012 Strategy Released

On Monday, December 17, 2012 EPA released the [National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change](#).

Building upon EPA's first climate change and water strategy release in 2008, this document describes how EPA's water-related programs plan to address the impacts of climate change, including long-term visions, goals and strategic actions for the management of sustainable water resources. The strategy involves working with state, tribal, and local governments to implement actions that address climate challenges, as well as protect water infrastructure, coastal and ocean waters, watersheds and wetlands, and water quality.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Installs New EV Charging Stations

The Department of Energy Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has installed three additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on campus, bringing the total number of stations to 28. The new charging stations have different charging capacities, with the new DC Fast Charger providing a charge of up to 80% in approximately 30 minutes for a Nissan Leaf. Two Level 2 chargers were also installed and have the ability to recharge a 50% depleted Nissan Leaf in about 3.5 hours. Each parking station is equipped with a solar canopy, producing enough power each year for approximately 10,000 miles.

Biomass Generation Facility Planned for Fort Drum

On December 12, 2012, the Army released a [Request for Proposal](#) (RFP) for an electric power-producing biomass generation facility capable of producing up to 28 megawatts. The Army would procure power through a Power Purchase Agreement for the renewable energy generated at the facility. The facility would be financed, designed, built and operated by a company selected through the RFP process. The solicitation closes on March 15, 2013.

Energy Information Administration Previews 2013 Annual Energy Outlook

The Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) has previewed an early release of the [2013 Annual Energy Outlook](#). The annual report examines existing U.S. energy trends and projects energy consumption, supply, prices, and generating capacity through 2040. More information on the 2013 outlook is available through [EIA](#).

Announcements

CEQ Blog – [From Sea to Shining Sea and Everything Between](#)

[DOE and EPA Release Annual Fuel Economy Guide with 2013 Models](#)

[EPA Releases Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012 Report](#)

[NOAA Releases Global Sea Level Rise Scenarios for US National Climate Assessment](#)

[GSA Seeks Sustainable Technologies to Test](#)

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



The Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility. Photo courtesy of DOI.

Upcoming Events

January

1/15-1/17 [13th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Disasters and Environment - Science, Preparedness, and Resilience](#)

1/21-1/24 [The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference](#)

1/29 [Climate Change Forum](#)

February

2/7 [New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#)

2/20 [AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar \(Classroom\)](#)

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.

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