

“The question now is whether we will have the courage to act before it’s too late. And how we answer will have a profound impact on the world that we leave behind not just to you, but to your children and to your grandchildren. As a President, as a father, and as an American, I’m here to say we need to act.”

– President Barack Obama, on June 25, 2013 at Georgetown University

CEQ News

GreenGov Dialogue Focuses on Performance Contracting



On June 19, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) hosted a GreenGov Dialogue on Performance Contracting, which focused on the benefits and success stories from the President’s \$2 billion Performance Contracting Challenge. CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley kicked off the event with an overview of the President’s energy efficiency initiatives, and Federal Environmental Executive Jon Powers followed up with remarks on further Administration efforts to increase the sustainability of agency operations. A highlight of the event was the participation of three members of Congress in the dialogue. Representatives Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Peter Welch (D-VT), founding members of the energy savings performance contracts (ESPC) Caucus, spoke of their efforts to support wider use of performance contracting in the government by taking on challenges with implementation and

budgetary considerations. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, emphasized both the importance of energy efficiency in the “all of the above” energy strategy championed by President Obama and the critical role of performance contracts in covering the up-front costs of energy efficiency. The event’s first panel was comprised of Brodi Fontenot, the Department of Transportation’s Assistant Secretary for Administration; Katherine Hammack, the U.S. Army Assistant Secretary for Installations, Energy, and Environment; and Dorothy Robyn, the General Services Administration’s Commissioner of the Public Building Service. The federal panelists discussed how their agencies have benefitted from performance contracting and ways to improve and speed up the project development process. Panelists emphasized the importance of education for project staff as a key factor in increasing the rate of contract awards. The second panel of the event highlighted performance contracting efforts of State and local governments. Representatives from the North Carolina Energy Office, the City of Fort Worth, Mesa County School District #51 in Colorado, and the District of Columbia Housing Authority – all participants in the Better Buildings Challenge – shared how energy performance contracting made a positive impact on their communities through cutting costs, avoiding layoffs, and helping instill sustainable practices within organizational cultures. The third and final panel of the event featured representatives from the private sector who discussed their experiences implementing federal performance contracts. In this panel, representatives from a utility company, energy service companies, and a financial group reiterated the call for better awareness within the procurement community and stressed that standardizing contracts is necessary, both to avoid duplicating efforts and to give ESPC projects greater access to sources of financing.

The GreenGov Dialogue encouraged project proponents to recognize the broad benefits of performance contracting, which include saving agency funds and resources, improving the quality of buildings and workspaces, and reducing the impact of government operations on the environment. The GreenGov Dialogue series is part of a larger effort to continue the momentum of Federal agencies’ efforts under Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Spotlight on EPA webinars

July 16, 2:30-3:45 P.M. (EST)

Green Infrastructure

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities, a collaboration of HUD, DOT, and the EPA, invites you to discuss how federal formula funds can be used to finance green infrastructure.

July 24, 2:00-3:00 P.M. (EST)

Our Built and Natural Environments

This webinar will provide an overview of EPA's recent report of the same title, focusing on how current patterns of land use, building and travel behavior have affected the environment.

For more information on both webinars, see:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/webinars/>

August 8, 1-2:30 P.M. (EST)

GreenGov Spotlight Community

Webinar – Car Sharing: This event will highlight the efforts of Chicago's Peace Corps office to reduce their fleet's emissions through car sharing efforts:

<http://www.epa.gov/fgc/spotlight/chicago-car-share.html>.

The President's Climate Action Plan

On June 25 at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a comprehensive plan to reduce carbon pollution, move our economy toward American-made clean energy sources, and begin to slow the effects of climate change.

The President's Plan lays out a series of executive actions to reduce carbon pollution, prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change, and lead international efforts to address global climate change. Since all agencies have a role to play in decreasing carbon pollution and preparing for climate change, we invite you to read the plan:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>



Agency News

2013 "Sammie" Award Finalists

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Geiss of the U.S. Air Force and Dr. Josh Silverman of the Department of Energy, both of whom were announced as finalists for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals based on their achievements in promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases. The "Sammie" is one of the highest honors awarded to federal civil servants. Dr. Geiss was recognized for saving the Air Force \$1 billion in energy costs and helping the Air Force to become the Pentagon's top green energy user. Dr. Silverman mounted a crusade against the potent greenhouse gas sulfur hexafluoride and successfully halted releases of the gas equivalent to 1.1 million tons of carbon dioxide. The winners of the awards will be announced on October 3, 2013. We wish the best of luck to both Dr. Geiss and Dr. Silverman, and applaud them for their vast contributions to federal sustainability efforts. More information on the Sammies can be found here:

<http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM/index.shtml>.

Congratulations to Federal Bike-to-Work Riders!

In the last GreenGov Leader, we reported on initial results of the May national Federal Bike-to-Work Challenge in cities across the country. Clearly the federal community rose to the challenge, and the final numbers reflect wide participation.

In total, over 2,100 federal employees logged over 240,000 miles during 20,000 biking trips back and forth to work. This is equivalent to saving roughly 240,000 pounds of CO2 emissions, as well as 8.6 million calories burned! Way to go feds! Our particular congratulations go out to the Bike-to-Work awards winners, including the Department of Interior for organizing the "Most New Riders and Overall Rides for an Organization." Feds can check in for more information on next year's Bike-to-Work Challenge here: <http://www.epa.gov/fgc/spotlight/bike.html>.

