

Special Edition California Drought Response

During his visit to California in February, President Obama directed all Federal facilities in the state to curb their water use in response to the drought, which is making 2014 one of the driest years in the State's recorded history. Federal agencies in California responded to the President's challenge, and are leading the way in minimizing their water footprint through innovative water management practices. There are so many inventive water conservation methods being deployed that space does not permit an exhaustive list. However, the examples provided below highlight some of the water management best practices being employed by Federal agencies across California.

Education for managers, employees and the public on direct water use reduction strategies

GSA's Pacific Rim Region has initiated extensive education and outreach, distributing a water conservation toolkit to employees and tenants, sharing best practices among building managers, posting signs around facilities to encourage behavioral changes, and providing leak alert call lines

NOAA conducted a Drought Outlook Forum to share information about available resources to help with short-term community responses and longer-term management and planning for drought conditions

HUD's Office of Disaster Recovery developed a comprehensive guide of existing water management resources and tools for HUD Disaster Relief grantees, which can be modified to each grantee's specific program design

Engage employees to reduce personal water use

U.S. Forest Service, Region 5 initiated a contest among employees to reduce their individual water footprint, encouraging water conservation practices at home and in the workplace

Begin to utilize, or increase use, of alternative water resources

DOD's Los Angeles Air Force Base began utilizing reclaimed water for irrigation

GSA Pacific Rim Region increased use of alternative water resources in its California buildings, which make up 60% of GSA's total facilities and office space

Partnerships within agencies or with state governments and private entities to promote and share water conservation practices

DOD agencies worked with privatized housing project owners to decrease residential water use

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural Development partnered with the State of California to develop a drought portal for agricultural and water information from each agency

NOAA's Voluntary Drought Initiative works with large water users in high priority areas throughout California to reduce the combined effects of the drought on agriculture, salmon, and steelhead

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region's Central California Area Office worked with multiple grantees on reducing water use through installation of meters, leak detection, more efficient irrigation, and education

VA's Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System teamed up with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to promote water conservation

EPA Region 9 worked with regulated entities to overcome barriers to large-scale stormwater capture practices and to promote green infrastructure construction and low impact development

Reduce landscape water use or employ xeriscaping

FAA's Western Pacific Regional Office reduced landscape watering and postponed window washing and other water-intensive maintenance

NARA adjusted landscape watering cycles to ensure that watering occurred at times of day/night with the least evaporation

IRS Fresno is removing ~17,000 sq.ft. of planted ground cover and 130 sprinkler heads to save 7,800 gallons of water per week

VA's Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System replaced 7.5 acres of turf with a drought-tolerant garden

DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory eliminated irrigation on seven acres of turf grass



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Install high-efficiency plumbing fixtures or other equipment

FDA is installing water flow recycling devices on equipment at two laboratories

GSA Pacific Rim Region is installing more water-efficient plumbing fixtures, boiler and hot water systems, and commercial kitchen appliances. GSA has also implemented single-pass equipment cooling and improved cooling tower management

DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory installed low-flow faucet aerators

EPA Region 9 is promoting the use of WaterSense labeled appliances (certified for water-efficiency) across commercial, industrial, and residential sectors

Conduct leak-detection surveys or improve metering and sub-metering to detect abnormal water flow

DOD surveyed its Military Ocean Terminal-Concord for potential leaks

NOAA worked with GSA to repair a leaking pipe at its Pacific Grove facility and has installed water meters at its La Jolla facilities to monitor and alarm abnormal flow

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region's Nimbus Fish Hatchery changed or repaired all leaky valves

[CEQ News]

Federal Agency Sustainability and Energy Scorecards

CEQ and OMB released the [Federal Agency Sustainability Scorecards](#) for Fiscal Year 2013, which report on progress towards the major sustainability goals outlined in the 2009 Executive Order, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*. The FY 2013 scorecard rollout [highlights successes](#) across the Federal community where we are on track, meeting, or exceeding goals established in statutes or the Executive Order. This year, renewable energy represented 9.2 percent of total Federal electricity use (the Energy Policy Act of 2005 set a goal of 7.5 percent by 2013, and a December 2013 Presidential Memorandum set a new goal of 20 percent by 2020). The Federal Government's use of potable water was reduced by 19.1 percent below 2007 levels (the 2009 E.O. set a goal of 12 percent by 2013), scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. direct emissions and emissions from agency energy use) declined by 17.2 percent from FY 2008 (the 2009 E.O. sets combined Federal agency target of 28 percent by 2020), and scope 3 (indirect) greenhouse gas emissions decreased 19.8 percent from FY 2008 (the E.O. set a combined Federal agency target of 13 percent by 2020). The scorecards also provide a useful tool for agencies to measure progress and identify areas for improvement as they continue to work toward the President's ambitious goals. CEQ and OMB are working to spur individual agency improvement and address some cross-cutting challenges. View agency scorecards [here](#).



Preparedness Pilots

Communities across the country face numerous challenges in understanding potential local climate change impacts and building these projections into actionable adaptation plans that can guide decision-making on issues from infrastructure investments and community planning to land use and zoning. Federal agencies and facilities are integral members of their local communities. To support that relationship, the Administration is launching a series of “[Preparedness Pilots](#)” that will bring together Federal agencies and local communities to assess and address vulnerabilities to the specific impacts of climate change in their region. The goal is to share the Federal Government’s collective expertise with local communities and get feedback from those communities on the Government’s role in local preparedness, as well as to integrate Federal planning with that of their communities. These “Preparedness Pilots” are in direct response to feedback from the [President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience](#), which is advising the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The first two of the “Preparedness Pilots,” announced publicly by the President on July 16th, will take place in Houston, TX, where NASA will provide the lead among Federal agencies, and in Colorado, where DOE, NREL will coordinate Federal action.

[News]

The Costs of Delaying Climate Action

On July 29th, the White House Council of Economic Advisors released a [report](#) examining the costs and economic consequences associated with delaying both domestic and global actions to address sources of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, which are causing climbing global temperatures. The report finds that immediate action substantially reduces the costs of achieving climate targets in the future, as mitigation costs are estimated to rise by 40 percent with each decade of delay, and suggests that taking action now is analogous to purchasing “climate insurance.” If climate action is delayed, and global temperatures are permitted to rise by 3° or 4° Celsius, global economic output is expected to fall by 0.9 percent per year for a 3° C rise (representing a \$150 billion loss each year for the U.S. economy alone) or 2.1 percent annually for 4° C. On top of these costs are the unknown, additional consequences of abrupt, large-scale, catastrophic changes, such as melting of Antarctic ice sheets, which would cause irreversible sea level rise and have other, unpredictable economic effects.

EPA Launches National Building Energy-Use Competition

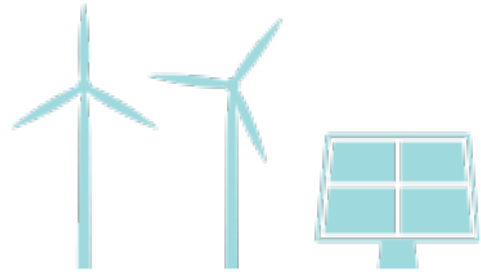
EPA is celebrating the launch of its [2014 ENERGY STAR® Battle of the Buildings competition](#) for energy and water use reduction. Over the course of the next year, over 5,500 buildings nationwide will utilize EPA’s [ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager®](#) tool to monitor monthly energy and water use and compete for the largest reductions. This marks the 5th annual competition, with last year’s competitors saving an estimated \$20 million on utility bills and 50 buildings demonstrating energy use reductions of 20 percent or greater. Federal agencies competing in this year’s competition include: General Service Administration (all 11 regions) with 495 facilities total, Department of Commerce with 32 facilities, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with 10.

USPS BlueEarth™ Federal Recycling Program

The [BlueEarth™ Program](#) is one of the National Strategy for Electronic Stewardship’s (NSES) key initiatives. BlueEarth™ helps Federal agencies and their employees reduce their environmental impact by facilitating recycling of unwanted electronics. Through BlueEarth™, USPS ships used personal and/or government-owned electronics to a certified electronics recycler at no cost to the agencies or employees, and Federal employees may earn cash back on the recycling of small electronics. BlueEarth™ is a great supplement to existing agency sustainability initiatives and allows for proper and secure disposal of agency electronic resources and personal property. This program is particularly innovative in reaching out to Federal facilities located in remote areas of the U.S., which often do not have means of disposing of waste electronics in an environmentally sound manner, as required by EO 13514. To date, 16 agencies have joined BlueEarth™, including GSA, DOD, EPA, and Peace Corps, which joined during a signing ceremony on August 4th in Washington D.C.

DOD Announces Solar Development in Hawaii

Pacific Energy Solutions, LLC (PES) received a \$334 million contract with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific to develop, build, own and operate [PV plants at military bases in Hawaii](#). Projects constructed under the Navy contract will include three rooftop and one ground-mounted system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, six rooftop and two elevated PV structures at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe, Hawaii and one rooftop and elevated PV installation at Camp Smith in Aiea, Hawaii. All of these projects, which are located on the island of Oahu, are set to be completed by 2040.



Recognizing 2014 Federal Green Challenge Winners

Spearheaded by EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program, the [Federal Green Challenge](#) (FGC) has spurred Federal agencies nation-wide to minimize their environmental impact and lead by example in sustainability. On July 31, EPA hosted a Federal Green Challenge National Webinar, featuring three of the FGC 2014 National awardees for their leadership and innovation in Federal sustainability. The Department of Homeland Security's National Benefits Center of Citizenship and Immigration Services, which received the highest level of performance overall national achievement award, presented on its "One Earth, One chance" bin program that sparked employee interest in waste diversion and led to significant improvements in the facility's recycling. The Department of Energy's Brookhaven Lab, which received the Purchasing achievement award, discussed its creation of a streamlined buying process and expanded list of options for a variety of sustainable products, along with its new green meetings and events policy and tracking system. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) elaborated on its Transportation achievement award, and how improved focus and accountability of alternative fuel vehicles, along with new tracking and monitoring programs, allowed BPA to achieve the highest reduction in transportation activities among FGC participants. More information on the 2014 FGC winners is available [here](#).

Climate Leadership Awards

The application period for EPA's [Climate Leadership Awards](#) is now open. The Climate Leadership Awards recognize exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership on the national level in response to climate change. With an overall goal of incentivizing greenhouse gas emission reductions, the award categories include: organizational leadership, individual leadership, supply chain leadership, and excellence in greenhouse gas management achievement, along with certificates in greenhouse gas management goal-setting and innovative partnerships. To be considered for an award or certificate, Federal agency initiatives must be on the cutting edge of climate change response action, going above and beyond efforts required by governmental directive. The award application period closes on September 12th.

Stormwater Rain Gardens and Low Impact Development Training

On September 9th-10th, EPA Region I New England and the Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut will sponsor a Stormwater Rain Gardens and [Low Impact Development](#) workshop on the New London Base. This practical, hands-on training, specifically for Department of Defense facilities in New England, will include speakers from EPA, Connecticut DEEP, Rutgers University, and the University of Connecticut, and will provide DOD agencies with specific strategies for implementing green infrastructure. The workshop has a limit of 50 participants. For more information, please contact Anne Fenn, EPA Region I Federal Facility Program Manager, Fenn.Anne@EPA.Gov, or Myra Schwartz, EPA Region I Assistance and Pollution Prevention Office, Schwartz.Myra@EPA.Gov.

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