



## Introducing CEQ's Federal Chief Sustainability Officer

On November 16, Christine Harada was appointed to the White House Council on Environmental Quality by President Obama, where she serves as the Administration's Federal Chief Sustainability Officer. In this capacity, she is responsible for promoting environmental and energy sustainability across Federal Government operations including 360,000 buildings, 650,000 vehicles, and \$445 billion annually in purchased goods and services. The Office of Federal Sustainability works collaboratively with the Executive Office of the President and each of the Federal agencies to implement the President's Executive Orders on Federal Sustainability and the GreenGov initiative.



## GreenGov Presidential Awards Call for 2016 Nominations

CEQ is pleased to announce that the nomination process for the White House Council on Environmental Quality's 2016 GreenGov Presidential Awards is open from March 18 and will close on May 20th. CEQ invites Federal civilian and military personnel to participate in the Awards nomination process across 12 (five new) award categories designed to celebrate extraordinary achievement in the pursuit of President Obama's Executive Order 13693, the GreenGov Presidential Awards honor exceptional Federal personnel, teams, agencies, projects, facilities, and programs that exemplify the Administration's charge to lead by example in sustainability. More information on the background, award categories and submission instructions can be found at the GreenGov portion of the FedCenter.gov website:

<https://www.fedcenter.gov/greengovpresidentialawards>

## 2015 GreenGov Presidential Award Winners

**Sustainability Hero** Ed Murtagh, Sustainable Operations Manager at the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Murtagh has worked over the past 23 years to transform United States Department of Agriculture headquarters in Washington, D.C. by transforming the building into a showcase for energy management and sustainability by utilizing innovative tools, products, and strategies.

**Green Innovation** Green Solvents Team from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Kennedy Space Center's Chemistry Team developed two novel solvent-free cleaning methods, resulting in increased workplace safety, and the reduction of scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions for the Kennedy Space Center.

**Lean, Clean and Green** United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District. The Detroit District is recognized for the adoption of E-85 flex fuel and increasing the number of flex fuel vehicles within their fleet by

creating a log book for staff, accompanied by a map of all E-85 fueling stations along their most common routes.

**Green Dream Team** General Services Administration's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building Green Team. Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in Portland, Oregon to a totally renovated LEED Platinum building in 2013 that consistently meets performance metrics In addition, the Agencies within the building came together to transform the tenants into LEED Platinum Employees worthy of the LEED Platinum facility, and to showcase the building by making tours available to local entities, particularly youth.

**Building The Future** Smithsonian Institution's Mathias Laboratory. The Smithsonian Institution's Mathias Laboratory, completed in September 2014 on the campus of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland, was conceived with a critical focus on environmental leadership. It was specifically designed to be the first LEED Platinum building within the Smithsonian Institution and to adapt to major program changes in scientific research anticipated over the next 50 years.

**Climate Champion** Los Alamos National Laboratory within the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration. The site has taken a proactive approach to identify strategies to mitigate the long and short term effects of climate-related events and as a result, becoming champions for sustainability and climate impact planning.

**Good Neighbor Award** This year, two projects have tied for the Good Neighbor award: the Department of the Interior's Branching Out: Youth Exploring Landscape Stewardship program and the Department of Transportation's Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

Department of Interior's Branching Out: Youth Exploring Landscape Stewardship engages young people from socially and economically diverse backgrounds in learning concepts and techniques of sustainable resource stewardship within the National Park Service.

Department of Transportation Tennessee's Division: Scott Allen and Corbin Davis have taken the initiative by actively implementing the Federal Highway Administration's strategic goal of fostering livable communities through place-based policies and investments that increase transportation choices and access to transportation services.

## News

### Federal Government Joint Solar Power Procurement

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Forest Service, awarded a contract for a federal government joint solar power procurement. Solar developer SolarCity Corporation of San Mateo, California was awarded a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 5 megawatts (MWs) as part of the Federal Aggregated Solar Procurement Pilot (FASPP) – a strategic sourcing project that combines several small to mid-size photovoltaic (PV) installation opportunities within northern California and northern Nevada into a single procurement.

## **Capital Solar Challenge Rooftop PV Arrays Contract**

The GSA has awarded a contract to WGL, a diversified energy company, for the construction of rooftop PV arrays that will bring approximately 3 megawatts of solar energy across 18 federal buildings in Washington, D.C. The contract award is part of the Capital Solar Challenge, which was launched by the White House in April 2014 and directed federal agencies and military installations to identify opportunities to deploy solar renewable energy at federal locations across the National Capital Region. The contract is under a 10 year base plus 10 year option power purchase agreement. WGL will be responsible for design, construction, ownership, and operation and maintenance of the systems. Construction of the systems is expected to be completed before the end of 2016 in order to take advantage of the 30% investment tax credit.

## **Large-Scale Renewable Energy Project Groundbreaking at Fort Hood**

A hybrid renewable energy project contract award and groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 28 at Fort Hood, Texas. This project is a collaboration between the Army Office of Energy Initiatives, the Defense Logistics Agency, and Fort Hood. This is the Army's largest single renewable energy project to date. The capital required to construct this project will come entirely from the project developer, Apex Clean Energy. The Army will only be buying the power from the system. The project is expected to save the Army at least \$168 million over the course of the contract with Apex. Once complete, the combined 15 megawatt (MW) onsite solar and 50 MW offsite wind project will have a capacity of 65 MW of alternating current (AC). The solar project will be microgrid-compatible to enhance installation energy security and resiliency.

## **Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings**

In February, the Office of Federal Sustainability has issued the revised "*Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings.*" The Guiding Principles set key requirements for the design, construction, and operation of new and existing Federal buildings, to improve their environmental performance (including reducing their greenhouse gas emissions), increase their resilience to climate change impacts, enhance their operating efficiency, and promote occupant health and wellness. You can access a pdf of the Guiding Principles [here](#).

## **Small Business Sustainability**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) hosted an event on March 2, called Small Business Day: Opportunity Knocks, Transportation is the Answer, which highlighted Direct Contracting Opportunities for Women-Owned Businesses. CEQ Managing Director Christy Goldfuss spoke about White House sustainability priorities; other keynote speakers included U.S. DOT Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet. Federal Chief Sustainability Officer Christine Harada talked about strategies for building business sustainability at one of the Workshops during the event.

## **Small Business Toolkit**

CEQ's Office of Federal Sustainability (OFS) has developed a Small Business Sustainability Toolkit to advance the adoption of cost saving and environmentally friendly sustainability measures at small businesses. The toolkit is a compilation of Federal sustainability resources and includes links to tools and resources to help small businesses reduce pollution, conserve energy and water, and use green power and renewable energy. OFS partnered with SBA to post the Toolkit on SBA's website. The Toolkit was released on February 29, in time to announce it at the March 2nd DOT Small Business Day event. You can access the toolkit [here](#).

## CEQ Working Group Updates

### Regional Coordination Working Group

On Thursday, March 24, Federal Chief Sustainability Officer Christine Harada will meet with the Regional Coordination Working Group, established by Section 10 of E.O. 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* to encourage cross-agency coordination at the Regional Office level. This group, co-led by the EPA and GSA Regional Administrators, is working to identify the ongoing successes and gaps, sharing best practices in the areas of fleet, water resource management, climate change preparedness and resilience, and procurement of clean energy.

### Grid- Based Green Power

On Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Federal Chief Sustainability Officer Christine Harada met with the Grid Based Green Power Working Group established by E.O. 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* to discuss ongoing renewable energy initiatives and focus areas. This group is identifying opportunities for new grid-based renewable energy projects that can provide power to the Federal government. Such projects advance renewable energy generally, and help agencies meet the goals of E.O. 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

### Federal Sustainability Working Groups

EO 13693 *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* called for standing up a number of working groups to explore specific sustainability concepts and make recommendations to CEQ. The working groups that have been officially stood up or have begun work and are ongoing include Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Transportation of Federal Freight and Cargo; Grid – Based Green Power; Procurements to Reduce Supply Chain Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Carbon Uptake Accounting and Wood Products; Interagency Task Force on Bicycling and Active Transportation; OPM Employee Training; Regional Coordination Working Group; and Advance Market Commitments.

#### Announcements

- When using Twitter, highlight what your agency is doing to #ActOnClimate
- If you are a Federal employee, don't forget to check out [what's new](#) on FedCenter.gov. If you are a member of the general public, visit the [CEQ Website](#)