

Leading the way to a more sustainable Federal Government



Greetings from the Federal Chief Sustainability Officer:

On behalf of the Office of Federal Sustainability, I hope that everyone is having a wonderful start to fall. Around here we are still on a high after awarding the 2016 GreenGov Presidential awards to Federal government employees earlier this month. That event was followed by our annual GreenGov Symposium with George Washington University, which was a phenomenal day of insight and discussion featuring national leaders in the sustainability field. Check out this month's newsletter for more details on those events and much more.

- *Christine Harada, Federal Chief Sustainability Officer*



News from the Office of Federal Sustainability

IUCN World Conservation Congress

On September 1st, President Obama addressed the World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Congress is the world's largest environmental and nature conservation event, with 6,000 attendees representing 170 governments, leading scientists, NGOs, and industry leaders. At the event, President Obama [announced](#) nearly \$40 million in new programming to enhance resilience to climate change, and to advance clean-energy development in the Pacific Islands. The Department of Defense participated in the Congress for the first time ever, and was highlighted for their efforts in environmental conservatism. This year's event was the first Congress hosted by the U.S.

Green Check Tool Launch

On September 7th, the Administration announced new steps to advance sustainability in Federal purchasing with the release of the General Services Administration's new "Green ✓" tool. This tool assists agencies in making informed decisions about products and services that save money, increase sustainability and meet green

purchasing requirements. This initiative will encourage sustainable purchasing in the Federal Government's over \$400 billion dollar supply chain, and will strengthen the environmental stewardship requirements in Federal acquisitions. The over 10,000 registered users of [GSA's Acquisition Gateway](#) – a one-stop portal including contract information, pricing tools, best practices, and other information -- will now see a new Green ✓ (Green Check) tag next to contract vehicles identified as sustainable and that advance our Federal green purchasing goals.

GreenGov Presidential Awards



GreenGov Awardee group photo from September 7, 2016

On September 7th, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was proud to recognize 12 individuals/Federal teams at the 2016 GreenGov Presidential Awards ceremony. Held at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building, this event celebrated outstanding achievement in the pursuit of President Obama's Federal sustainability goals. Over 100 nominations came in from throughout Federal government, with selected awardees chosen for going above and beyond to implement innovative sustainability projects within the government. Award winners run the gamut, from innovative new sustainability-focused software tools from the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Department of Defense](#) and [NASA](#), to an EPA team that is changing the game in terms of Federal facility compost collection. Learn more about all of our winners at [WhiteHouse.gov](#).

As part of the GreenGov Presidential Awards announcement, the Administration also released its *State of Federal Sustainability*. The Federal Government has reduced its annual greenhouse gas emissions 17.6 percent since 2008, and avoided the emission of over 31 million metric tons of GHGs—equivalent to taking 8.7 million cars off of the road for one year. Check out all of the accomplishments [here](#).

GreenGov Symposium



Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, September 8, 2016

CEQ and George Washington University hosted the 2016 GreenGov Symposium on September 8th. The day-long event brought together Senior Administration officials, Federal stakeholders, and industry leaders to discuss current trends and best practices for achieving sustainability goals across the Federal government. Speakers included U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, noted Chef Dan Barber, and CEQ Managing Director Christy Goldfuss. The event featured discussions on topics ranging from EV deployment to food waste, with over 40 expert speakers. You can experience the entire event online on the [GreenGov website](#).

Federal Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans Released

The Administration recently released the Federal Agency [Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans](#). In these strategic plans, Federal agencies detail how they are working to meet the President's goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions, increase use of renewable energy, reduce energy and water used in Federal buildings, improve efficiency of Federal fleet vehicles, and enhance climate resilience.

Here are just a few examples of how Federal Agencies are leading by example:

- **Saving Energy and Saving Money for Veteran Care:** When compared to hospitals nationwide, Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals are a top energy performer. VA hospitals are approximately 35% more efficient than the average U.S. hospital, allowing more resources to be directed to the care of Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has reduced energy intensity by 23.2% compared to a 2003 baseline
- **Reducing Water Use at the World's Largest Museum and Research Complex:** The Smithsonian Institution has reduced water use at its museums and the National Zoo by 54.5% since 2007, exceeding the Federal 26% reduction goal for FY 2020. The Smithsonian accomplished this achievement by using sub meters and leak detectors to discover water waste, and by focusing on water efficient landscapes for iconic public buildings on the National Mall and at the National Zoo
- **Navy Achieves 1 GW in Renewable Energy:** In the 2012 State of the Union address, President Obama announced that the Department of the Navy would seek to produce or procure 1 gigawatt

(GW) of renewable energy by 2020. The Navy not only met that goal, but they did it by the end of 2015, five years ahead of schedule. One recent project represents the largest renewable energy procurement in Federal government history - a solar project that will bring 210MW of renewable power to 14 Navy bases in California. Over the life of the 25-year contract, the Navy will save more than \$90 million, while enhancing energy security and resiliency

Federal Workplace Charging Workshop

On October 19th, the CEQ Office of Federal Sustainability will partner with DOE's Workplace Charging Challenge to hold a half day workshop on Federal agency workplace charging. The workshop will be held from 8 am-12:30 pm at DOT headquarters in Washington, DC. CEQ extends an invitation to both headquarter and non-headquarter staff who will be involved in their agency's workplace charging program development. Attendees may include sustainability managers, energy managers, facility and real property managers, and fleet managers. Those interested in attending should contact workplacecharging@ee.doe.gov.

News From Around the Agencies

Army Achieves 1 Billion in Energy-Efficiency Projects

The U.S. Army has [announced](#) a significant milestone, as it achieves \$1 billion in energy-saving projects in response to the Administration's Presidential Performance Contracting Challenge. In less than five years, the Army has engaged in 127 energy-efficiency-focused projects with the private sector, aimed at making energy saving upgrades to Federal buildings. These upgrades will use long-term energy savings to pay for up-front costs, at no cost to taxpayers. Army's achievement represents 33 percent of the Federal government's current contribution toward the President's \$4 billion dollar goal.

Also in the News

Contracting for Efficiency

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) presents its latest e-Training course, *Contracting for Efficiency*. This course offers Federal contracting officers a concise introduction to the process of procuring energy-efficient products and includes actionable guidance as it applies throughout the contracting process. During the course, participants will learn to identify the contracting requirements, select covered product categories, write solicitations and contracts, accurately verify the delivery of compliant products and services, and utilize FEMP and EPA's ENERGY STAR resources. For more information on the course, visit the course [website](#).

(Source: FEMP Digest)

DOE and DOI Announce New National Offshore Wind Strategy

On September 9th, the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced the publication of a collaborative strategic plan, the *National Offshore Wind Strategy: Facilitating the Development of the Offshore Wind Industry in the United States*. The strategy could help enable 86 gigawatts of offshore wind in the United States by 2050 and details the current state of offshore wind in the United States, presents the actions and innovations needed to reduce deployment costs and timelines, and provides a roadmap to support the growth and success of the industry. The two agencies published the strategy just weeks after construction was

completed on America's first offshore commercial wind farm off of Block Island, Rhode Island. The new 30-megawatt wind farm was the DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's first right-of-way grant and is expected to start operating by the end of 2016. It will generate enough electricity to power 17,000 homes in New England.

The strategy identifies key challenges facing the industry and more than 30 specific actions that the Energy Department and DOI can take over the next five years to address those challenges. These actions fall into three strategic areas:

- * Reducing technical costs and risks.
- * Supporting effective stewardship.
- * Improving the market conditions for investment in offshore wind energy.

The new strategy builds on DOE and DOI's first joint offshore wind strategy, published in 2011. Since then, the Energy Department has allocated nearly \$200 million to support three cutting-edge offshore wind demonstration projects led by the University of Maine, New Jersey's Fishermen's Energy, and Ohio's Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation, as well as research and development investments in technologies that specifically address the opportunities and challenges across U.S. waters. See the Energy Department [news release](#).

(Source: EERE Network News)

Sustainable Acquisition Community of Practice

Check out the [Sustainable Acquisition Community of Practice](#) (COP): This is a place for sharing great things being done in green purchasing, and allows for the posting of questions, answers and other useful information. Plan to join this community and share it with the acquisition folks in your agency. You need an OMB MAX account plus your PIV card to access the Gateway. Once you log-in, on the right-hand side of the homepage, you will see "Community". Click on the word "Community" to see the list of all the communities of practice, then scroll down in the "Groups" column to the Sustainable Acquisition community.

(Source: From the FedCenter Weekly Newsletter)

Does Your Agency Have Sustainability News to Share? Submit it for Publication in the GreenGov Leader

- Submit your news to: info@sustainability.gov by the 15th of every month.