

"There's one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent and growing threat of a changing climate."

-President Barack Obama, on September 23, 2014 at the U.N. Climate Change Summit



[OFEE News]

2014 GreenGov Awards

CEQ hosted the [2014 GreenGov Presidential Awards](#) on October 31, honoring Federal agency teams and individuals that demonstrated extraordinary achievement toward meeting the goals of the President's Executive Order 13514 on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance. This year's ceremony welcomed George Washington University's Executive Director of the Sustainability Institute Kathleen Merrigan as the keynote speaker. The winners were as follows: Building the Future Award, Naval District Washington/NAVFAC Washington; Climate Champion Award, Bill Goran; Green Dream Team Award, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy Strategic Sustainability Partnership; Green Innovation Award, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Division of Environmental Protection; Lean Clean and Green Award, US Naval base at Camp Lemonnier; Sustainability Hero Award (2 winners), Aníbal Negrón-Rodríguez and Joel Walker.



Joel Walker, Sustainability Hero Award Winner

2014 GreenGov Challenge

On Friday, October 31, CEQ launched the [2014 GreenGov Challenge](#) to seek the best ideas for new climate and sustainability initiatives from the Federal community. Federal employees across the Nation can provide suggestions on improving sustainability in Federal operations. The [2009 GreenGov Challenge](#) gathered more than 5,300 ideas and 165,000 votes from thousands in the Federal community from every agency, across America and around the globe. This year, Federal employees can share their ideas on how the Federal Government can lead by example in eight categories different categories including carbon emissions reduction, climate change mitigation and resilience, sustainable buildings, sustainable purchasing, energy conservation, water conservation, waste elimination, and fleet efficiency. The Challenge is open through December 5, 2014.

GreenGov Dialogue on Green Infrastructure

On Wednesday, October 8, CEQ hosted a GreenGov Dialogue on Green Infrastructure where panelists shared unique challenges, best practices, and successful approaches to achieving Federal Performance goals on sustainability. Federal agencies, NGOs, and private companies discussed the importance of green infrastructure in achieving community resilience and water quality goals. In addition, panelists shared in-depth case study presentations on successful implementation of green infrastructure programs in their facilities.

GreenGov Dialogue on Data Centers

If all Data Centers were 20 percent more efficient, the nation could save more than 20 billion kWh of electricity by 2020, which would result in roughly \$2 billion in cost savings. That's why CEQ hosted the first GreenGov Dialogue on *Highlighting Data Center Leadership in the President's Better Buildings Challenge*, on September 30. Professionals from IT, energy management, and sustainability came together with facilities management from Federal agencies, academia and the private sector to discuss how to best drive greater energy efficiency in Data Centers. The Energy Department also announced the first Data Center owners and operators who have committed to reduce their energy use by at least 20 percent over the next decade as part of the Better Buildings Challenge for Data Centers. New private sector partners included eBay Inc., Staples and Schneider Electric.

[CEQ News]

State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force Release Climate Preparedness Recommendations

On November 17 the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience released and delivered their [recommendations](#) to members of the Administration, including Vice President Biden and Senior White House officials. The Task Force members, comprised of Governors, Mayors, county executives and Tribal leaders, presented their recommendations for how the Federal government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with extreme weather and other impacts of climate change. The Administration also announced several actions that respond to early input from the Task Force, including: new online resilience training for local officials, the Hampton Roads preparedness and resilience exercise, disaster recovery app, a climate education and literacy initiative and the climate resilience [toolkit](#).

Capital Solar Challenge – GSA Industry Day

On November 13 the General Services Administration (GSA) hosted an "industry day" with stakeholders and solar industry representatives to discuss the solar power procurement planned under the Capital Solar Challenge. The event was hosted at GSA headquarters and made accessible by webinar for remote participation. GSA plans to use an aggregated power purchase model to deploy 5-10 megawatts (MW) of solar power on more than 20 Federal buildings within the National Capital Region. GSA presented an overview of the procurement and discussed the project size, scope and financing with potential vendors to solicit feedback in advance of releasing a request for proposals in early 2015. The presentation from the event is available on [FedBizOpps.gov](#).

Agency's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans & Climate Adaptation Plans Released

On October 31, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of the President's 2009 Executive Order on Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance, CEQ [announced](#) the availability of agency's 2014 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans. 38 agencies also released their Climate Adaptation Plans responding to a 2013 Executive Order on Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change. The Climate Adaptation Plans indicate how climate change is expected to affect agency's missions and operations, while also detailing how these issues will enter into the agency's decision-making. The Sustainability Plans outline how agencies are meeting water, energy, waste and greenhouse gas emission target goals. For example, the President set a goal in 2010 for the Federal Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% by 2020 and to date the Federal Government has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 17%. Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans and Climate Adaptation Plans are now available on the cross-agency priority page of [performance.gov](#).

Pollinators Guidance Released

In October, CEQ announced the release of the document, [“Supporting the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.”](#) The guide offers a user-friendly framework to seamlessly integrate pollinator-friendly strategies into everyday design, operations and maintenance activities. Using these recommendations, facility managers can actively examine their current buildings, grounds, and practices for opportunities to transition to a richer diversity of pollinator-friendly plant species.

The guidance reflects the requirements of the [June 20 Presidential Memorandum](#) directing the heads of executive departments and agencies to create a Federal strategy promoting the health of honey bees and other pollinators. The Presidential Memorandum envisioned broad engagement to improve the management of Federal buildings, landscapes, rangelands and forests to increase and improve pollinator habitat nationally. Section 3(d) of the Presidential Memorandum instructs the CEQ to revise its existing sustainable landscapes guidance for Federal agencies to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices into site landscape performance requirements.



This guide was shared at the 13th Annual National American Pollinator Protection Campaign International Conference at the U.S. Department of Agriculture: pollinator.org/nappc/about.htm.

To view the guidance *Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes* and its addendum to *Support the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*, visit: www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/sustainability/landscaping-guidance

DOE, Navy & USDA Announce New Biofuels Contracts

On September 19 CEQ hosted the Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, Secretary of Navy Mabus, and Deputy Secretary of Energy Poneman to formally [announce](#) new contracts to construct and commission biorefineries capable of producing drop-in, military-compatible fuels that can be used in our most advanced warfighting platforms and by commercial industry. Together, the three companies receiving the awards will produce more than 100 million gallons of military grade fuel – at a price that’s competitive with fossil fuel. The awards, made under Defense Production Act Title III authorities, marks important progress on the President’s Climate Action Plan and help meet the President’s goal of working with private industry to create advanced drop-in biofuels that will power the Department of Defense and the private transportation sector. In August, the Navy completed the award process for three contracts that entitle the production of over 100 million gallons per year of drop-in, military compatible biofuels with initial production beginning in 2016. Under the contracts the biofuels will have a weighted average price of less than \$3.50/gal and at least 50% lower lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than that of conventional fuel.

[News]

BIG NEWS: THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA JUST ANNOUNCED NEW TARGETS TO REDUCE CARBON POLLUTION

- President Obama is setting a new target to cut U.S. carbon pollution by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025.
- China is committing to peak its CO2 emissions around 2030 while striving to peak early, and boost its share of non-fossil fuel energy to around 20%.

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The GreenGov Leader

President Obama & Chinese President Xi Jinping Announce Historic Climate Commitment

On November 11, President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping jointly [announced](#) new steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. President Obama announced a new target to cut net greenhouse gas emissions 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025. President Xi Jinping announced targets to peak carbon dioxide emissions around 2030,

marking the first time China has agreed to peak its CO2 emissions. President Xi also announced intentions to increase China's non-fossil fuel energy share to around 20% by 2030. The historic announcement was hailed as one of the most significant climate commitments to date.

Navy Announces Military Housing Solar Project

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus [announced](#) in October a purchase power agreement between Lincoln Military Housing and SolarCity that will provide 6,000 Navy and Marine Corps housing units in the San Diego area with rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. SolarCity will handle the design, installation, monitoring and maintenance of the systems that may generate up to 20 MW of solar energy.

USDA's George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) Solar Array Project

USDA has broken ground on a 1.4 MW solar array project for its George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland. The project will be built by a small business and will be the largest solar photovoltaics project in the Washington DC metro area. When completed, the system is expected to reduce energy consumption required by the GWCC buildings by 2,140,000 kWh per year and will produce enough solar energy to power its facility during the day.

Fort Drum Biomass Generation Facility

The US Army awarded a [contract](#) in September for a renewable energy Biomass Generation Facility (BGF) project. Fort Drum Army Base, located in Jefferson County, New York supports the mobilization and training of 30,000 troops and with this new project will be able to produce 100% of the installation's energy requirements. The project, a joint effort between the Army's Energy Initiatives Task Force, Fort Drum, DLA Energy and ReEnergy, has a 60 MW capacity and will be able to provide electricity back to the utility grid.

General Services Administration (GSA) Signs Substantial Wind Energy Contract

In September GSA signed the largest U.S. Federal Government wind energy contract in U.S. history - a contract to purchase 140 MW of wind power from a [project](#) to be constructed in Illinois. GSA has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to purchase the 140 MW of clean wind energy from the Walnut Ridge Wind Farm. This project is estimated to produce approximately 500 gigawatt hours of electricity annually, eliminating an estimated 499,973 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year. This contract will help GSA meet the President's aggressive energy goal for the Federal government to consume 20% of its power from renewable sources by 2020.



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