

## **Report Methodology**

Earlier this year, OFEE interviewed knowledgeable officials at selected Federal agencies to determine the status of green building within the Federal government. Agencies were chosen based on their size and reputation for actively working to green their facilities. Although most agencies did not have information available to fully answer every question, the questionnaire provided a framework to stimulate discussion about the agency's building inventory and green building programs.

In addition to requesting baseline information, OFEE asked the agencies to list current green building initiatives, discuss barriers to success, and identify requirements for greater progress. Information gained from this survey was supplemented with considerable web-based research on agency building programs. Here are the specific questions we asked within each of the four main areas of the survey:

### *Baseline Data*

- How are responsibilities for green buildings (e.g., construction, facilities management and environmental) divided among different parts of the agency?
- How many buildings do they occupy?
- How much square footage?
- What types of buildings (e.g., operational, industrial, training, administrative buildings) predominate?
- How many buildings are owned versus leased?
- Every year, how many buildings do they:
  - Build?
  - Renovate?
  - Demolish?
  - Sign new leases for (as lessee)?

### *Current Green Building Initiatives*

- What policies, guidelines, directives and programs exist to promote green building across their agency?
- How many buildings have significant green features? Is information (e.g., case studies, design guidelines) available for these buildings?
- What websites, publications, etc., does the agency have about green buildings?

### *Barriers to Greater Success*

What types of barriers (including the following) impeded greater success?

- Bureaucratic
- Financial

- Technical
- Cultural
- Other (please specify)

*Requirements for Greater Progress*

- In what ways or areas do you think the Federal government is making the most progress in greening building?
- What do you consider to be lacking in current Federal green building programs?
- Discuss opportunities to do more and better.
- Identify ways to deal with financial issues (make goals attainable).
- Describe how bureaucratic barriers can be addressed.
- What are appropriate goals for the Federal government (e.g., define in terms of LEED™ level)?
- Should goals be set for new buildings only, or for existing and leased space as well?
- Discuss how to institutionalize goals (e.g., through an Executive Order).
- What role can the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive play?
- What additional information, networking, coordination tools are needed?