



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXECUTIVE

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PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS HONORED AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Federal employees representing Federal Departments and Agencies from across the United States and abroad gathered today at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, in Washington, DC to accept awards for their commitment to environmental stewardship. The awards presented today are signed by the President, and are part of the White House “Closing the Circle” awards program continued under the new Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*. This Executive Order, signed by President Bush on January 24, 2007, was designed to further expand and strengthen the Federal government's commitment to effective use of Environmental Management Systems; acquisition of green products and services; pollution prevention, including reduction or elimination of the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials; cost-effective waste prevention and recycling programs; sustainable design/high performance buildings, vehicle fleet management, including the use of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels; and electronics stewardship.

“These award winners are today’s federal leaders in developing innovative and aggressive paths to manage our environmental and energy footprint, while at the same time meeting our missions and supporting the economy,” said Ed Pinero, the Federal Environmental Executive. “We have winners that have increased the purchase of bio products at their locations, that have reduced their generation of waste and recycled a higher percentage of waste than ever before, and that looked beyond the status quo and blazed new paths towards sustainable environmental performance that benefit our nation.”

Created by executive order, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) is part of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and works to promote sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the Federal government by assisting agencies in integrating environmental considerations into their operations.

2007 WHITE HOUSE CLOSING THE CIRCLE AWARDS WINNERS

Environmental Management Systems - Military

Department of the Navy

Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, San Diego, CA

Environmental Program Office

Continual Environmental Improvement for Sustainability

Fleet Readiness Center Southwest is an aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and repair facility that occupies 63 buildings on 358 acres, and employs approximately 3,300 civilian and military personnel. While many of the facility's processes -- such as plating, stripping and painting, are potentially hazardous and dangerous, they have an outstanding record of environmental compliance.

The Fleet Readiness Center, was the first Federal facility to successfully register to ISO 14001. Key initiatives include teaming energy conservation with pollution prevention for leveraging resources, utilizing the "plan-do-check-act" precepts of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, and utilizing an expert process improvement team.

The EMS includes an internal audit component that not only monitors the status of the various EMS program components, but also ensures that "continual improvement" is actually occurring.

Recent projects implemented for pollution prevention and energy conservation are innovative and transferable to other Department of Defense facilities and to industry.

Environmental Management Systems - Civilian

Department of Energy

Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY

Environmental Management Systems Team

Expanding the Envelope of BNL's EMS

Brookhaven National Laboratory's EMS was the first DOE Office of Science Laboratory to achieve site-wide third party certification to the ISO 14001 standard.

As a voluntary member of the EPA National Performance Track Program, and EPA's National Partnership for Environmental Priorities, the Laboratory has achieved a 90 percent reduction in onsite PCB inventory, a 40 percent reduction in mercury, and removal from service of more than 35 tons of CFC-11 equivalent. Also, a record 100,000 pounds of electronics were recycled during 2006.

The Lab is recognized at both Federal and State levels as an example for other organizations to follow.

Recycling - Military
Department of the Air Force
Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan
Kadena AB Recycling Team

Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, is the largest U.S. installation in the Asia-Pacific region and home to the Air Force's largest combat wing. The base provides collection of recyclables for about 18,000 Americans and 4,000 Japanese employees and contractors.

Kadena Air Base operates the only military operation of glass crushing and wood chipping facilities on-island. Glass is finely crushed and mixed with sand to be reused for on-base construction projects, saving an estimated annual disposal cost of \$88,000 and \$33,000 in cost reductions for fill material. Organic waste, including typhoon debris in fiscal year 2006 amounted to over 3080 tons, much of which was mulched and composted.

Through recycling, composting and mulching, the program has reduced the solid waste disposal rate from over 25,000 tons to approximately 14,000 tons per year and decreased disposal costs by over \$2.8 million dollars this year.

Recycling - Civilian
U.S. Postal Service
Eastern Services CMC, Memphis, TN
Solid Waste Management Team
USPS Total Solid Waste Management Program

The USPS Total Solid Waste Management program removes recyclables from the US Postal Service waste stream at more than 200 locations in Pennsylvania and Mississippi. The program recycles undeliverable Standard Mail, plastic film and cardboard, and in some places, wooden pallets, metals, and confidential paper.

Recyclables are transported from post offices utilizing otherwise unused Postal Service transportation capacity in the existing distribution network and collected at a Processing and Distribution Center. The recyclables are sold to processors and manufacturers.

Since April 2005, the program has recycled more than 10.4 million pounds of recyclables, reduced expensive waste disposal bills to zero, and generated more than \$245,000 of incremental revenue. As a result, monthly revenue for the Postal Service has increased to more than \$31,000 per month.

**Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in
Transportation - Military**

U.S. Marine Corps

CONUS Installations

Fleet Management Team

Garrison Mobile Equipment Fuel Conservation

With a strong commitment to decreasing petroleum consumption, the Marine Corps has been a leader among Federal agencies in the areas of alternative fuels use and fuel conservation. The Marine Corps' dedication is shown by the fact that this is the second time that they are the military winner in this category!

The Corps exceeds Energy Policy Act requirements every year, achieving 199 percent compliance in fiscal year 2006. They used more than 1.5 million gallons of biodiesel and added 67 neighborhood electric vehicles. Nearly 28 percent of the fuel used was alternative fuel.

They continue to expand their alternative fuel infrastructure by opening new E85 Ethanol fuel sites at facilities across the country.

One facility is working to complete the installation of a hydrogen reformer and fueling station for hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles. The station will be available for use by civilians as well as the government.

Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation - Civilian

U.S. Postal Service

Northland District, Minneapolis, MN

Robert Kunowski

E85 Alternative Fuel Usage in the Northland District

Mr. Kunowski has been instrumental in helping the Postal Service's Northland District emerge as the Postal Service's leader in the use of E85 fuel -- increasing E85 use in its delivery fleet by more than 64 percent over the past three fiscal years, from 166,000 gallons to 273,000 gallons, an average increase of approximately 18 percent per fiscal year.

The District developed a systematic process for matching ethanol-capable vehicles to Post Offices located in areas where E85 fuel was readily available at commercial retail locations.

The Postal Service also worked with the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Lung Association to promote the proliferation of E85 fueling sites in the Northland District. The District now operates 584 ethanol-capable vehicles on city delivery and rural delivery routes and tracks E85 fuel consumption to ensure that it is being used whenever economical.

Waste/Pollution Prevention - Military

Department of the Army

Fort Hood, TX

Solid Waste and Recycle Team

Every Waste a Reuse Opportunity

Fort Hood's recycling program is recognized as one the largest and most efficient in the Army. Fort Hood refers to its training and outreach as the secret of its success, providing awareness training via formal and informal briefings to nearly 11,000 Soldiers, contractors, and civilians.

Among their initiatives, they manage a growing deconstruction program which provided more than \$45,000 in revenue for Habitat for Humanity and saved Fort Hood more than \$28,000 in landfill cost. Overall in 2006, Fort Hood processed more than 7,500 tons of recyclable material, generating more than \$1.5 million in revenue, while avoiding more than \$217,000 in disposal costs. Fort Hood's total solid waste cost avoidance exceeded \$2.5 million.

Department of the Navy

Commander Navy Region, Southwest Asia

Awni M. Almasri

Waste Minimization at CNRSWA

Mr. Almasri's management abilities are responsible for the successful integration of pollution prevention programs across diverse civilian and military activities and reducing costs and increasing the environmental compliance of the facility.

Pollution prevention initiatives reduced shipboard waste disposal by more than 75 percent and resulted in more than \$850,000 in savings and disposal cost avoidance.

For example, Mr. Almasri arranged for washing and reuse of more than 97 tons of oily rags, reducing disposal cost by more than \$160,000 and reducing overall shipboard hazardous waste disposal quantity by more than 35%. His programs also diverted more than 45 tons of aerosol cans, oil filters, batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs from the waste stream, reducing hazardous waste disposal costs by more than \$115,000.

Waste/Pollution Prevention - Civilian

Department of Energy

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Newport News, VA

Cryogenic Systems Engineering Team
Cryogenic Refrigeration System Improvements

Jefferson Lab engineers invented a process, called the “Ganni Cycle” -- for Cryogenics Group Deputy Leader Rao Ganni, that has revolutionized the way helium cryogenic plants work. It requires very few or no new components and nearly doubles the lifetime of refrigeration equipment while improving system reliability

Portions of the new process instituted at Jefferson Lab’s refrigeration plant increased the time between compressor maintenance periods from 45,000 hours to 74,000 hours and slashed its power requirements from 6 Megawatts to 4.2 Megawatts, resulting in electricity savings of \$33,000 a month!

Portions of the Ganni Cycle have also been implemented at other DOE facilities for existing plants, to help in reducing their electric power consumption. This innovative process has been submitted to the U.S. Patent Office for review, and a patent is pending.

Green Purchasing - Civilian
Department of Veterans Affairs
Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI
Timothy Trittschuh
Biobased Fluids Pilot Project

Through Mr. Trittschuh’s initiative, Fort Custer National Cemetery participated in a successful pilot project sponsored by the United Soybean Board, to explore the use of biobased fluids to replace or partially replace petroleum-based fuel and lubricating fluids.

The Board donated Bio-Soy products, including chain saw bar oil, hydraulic fluid, transmission fluid, and penetrating oil for their use and evaluation, and in all cases, the biobased products have worked as well or better than their non-biobased counterparts. Biobased products used in the pilot project included bar and chain oil, two-cycle engine oil, hydraulic (universal tractor) fluid, hydrostatic fluid, and winter diesel fuel conditioner.

As a result of the successful pilot project, the Department of Veterans Affairs plans to implement the use of biobased B20 Biodiesel, as well as other biobased fluids and lubricants, at its other 122 national cemeteries, and will be also share the results to state veterans cemeteries and the United States Cemetery Association.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

Research Vessel Operations, Muskegon, MI
Green Ship Initiative

The Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, or GLERL, Ship Operations Group created the “Green Ship Initiative” to explore innovative ways to reduce the environmental impact of its ships and boats on the nation’s greatest fresh water resource. This initiative has transitioned from a series of pilot projects into full implementation.

Biobased products are now used exclusively for all GLERL shipboard systems, including fuel, hydraulic, transmission, and engine crankcase systems, and for maintenance products. During fiscal year 2006, GLERL vessels consumed more than 16,000 gallons of B100 Biodiesel in a diverse list of diesel engine types onboard three vessels.

GLERL exclusively uses B100 Biodiesel for its vessels. Total emissions from B100 are four times lower than B20, and the fuel is significantly less toxic than petroleum diesel, making B100 a better choice for marine applications. Most importantly, B100 eliminates the high sulfur emissions of Marine #2 diesel fuel.

Electronics Stewardship - Civilian

Department of Energy
Headquarters, Washington, DC
The Green Team
Green Electronics Partners

The DOE Green Team consists of four key Headquarters offices which share responsibility for managing the three electronics stewardship lifecycles: Acquisition, Operations and Maintenance, and end-of-life management.

One of the new requirements established by E.O. 13423 is for agencies to purchase 95% of certain office electronics as Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool-registered products. Even before the E.O. was issued, DOE set a national precedent for Federal agencies, when its Office of the Chief Information Officer adopted the EPEAT registration as a procurement requirement in its annual market survey for Headquarters electronic hardware, noting that notebook computer procurement would be at the Silver EPEAT level.

The DOE Procurement and Assistance Policy Office developed an Acquisition Letter for all DOE contractor purchasing of environmentally preferable electronics, specifying acquisition of EPEAT-registered products. This resulted in DOE procuring more than 10,000 EPEAT-registered computers and monitors in fiscal year 2006.

The Green ‘Dream’ Team has also successfully promoted electronics stewardship DOE-wide. Six DOE sites shipped hundreds of reusable computer workstations to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Eleven sites recycled more than a half million pounds of electronics during the 2006 Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign.

DOE also won the Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign overall Agency Award two years in a row for reusing and recycling the most electronics in a four-month period.

Sustainable Design/Green Buildings – Military

Department of Defense

The Pentagon, Washington, DC

PENREN and Defense Facilities Directorate

Pentagon Library and Conference Center

The Pentagon renovation project involves turning the 63-year old headquarters of the U.S. military into a modern, flexible and efficient work environment. The new Pentagon Library and Conference Center expands the Pentagon's current capacity to hold large meetings and conferences.

At each stage of this project, the renovation team integrated sustainable design and constructability. Conversion of the former Pentagon Officer Athletic Center to the Pentagon Library and Conference Center optimized the reuse of the existing structure by reusing the structural frame, walls and roof as the building shell. Materials used in the interior fit-out were specified to meet the goals of durability, maintainability, and environmental sensitivity. To minimize the use of toxic chemicals during building maintenance, a Green Housekeeping plan for purchasing and use has been developed.

Because of its sustainable design, the Pentagon Renovation and construction office is submitting this project to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, for New Construction program Gold Certification.

Sustainable Design/Green Buildings – Civilian

Environmental Protection Agency

One and Two Potomac Yard, Arlington, VA

Crystal City Office Consolidation Team

Raising the Bar for Sustainable Building Projects

In July 2006, EPA held grand opening ceremonies for its two new twelve-story office buildings across the river in Arlington, VA. The 654,000 square foot facility houses 1,600 employees and sits on a 3-acre site that was formerly an abandoned railroad yard.

Among the highlights of One & Two Potomac Yard's energy-efficient and environmentally-sustainable design are its "green roof" building connector, environmentally-friendly fixtures and finishes, the use of recycled content in most of the construction products, and shower facilities and onsite parking for 53 cyclists.

The facility is contracted to receive 4.2 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy certificates annually, has achieved a 41 percent water use reduction, and was constructed with 60 percent local materials. During construction, more than 70 percent of construction waste was recycled, diverting 2,000 tons of wood and metal wastes from being landfilled.

The project has been recognized for its achievements with the LEED Gold for New Commercial Construction certification. It is anticipated that the project will also receive EPA's ENERGY STAR building label in 2007.

Sowing the Seeds

Department of the Army

Headquarters, Washington, DC

The Army Strategy for the Environment

The United States Army is recognized for launching a new strategy for the environment: *Sustain the Mission – Secure the Future*.

This strategy builds on the lessons learned from sustainability pilot programs conducted at several Army installations, such as Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Hood, Fort Carson, and Fort Campbell, and institutionalizes those efforts. The strategy is designed to build stronger relationships with local communities in order to find common solutions to environmental issues, while protecting training lands for Soldiers. For example, several of the Army installations arranged for land conservation easements, which both conserve land from development and ensure that development will not encroach on the areas needed for mission training operations.

The Army has learned over the past decades that simply complying with environmental regulations will not ensure that it will be able to sustain its mission. The Army committed to become systems thinkers in order to benefit from the interrelationships of the *triple bottom line* of sustainability: mission, environment, and community.

The new Army strategy establishes a long-range vision that enables it to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is the foundation for this Strategy and a paradigm that focuses the Army's thinking to address both present and future needs while strengthening community partnerships that improve its ability to organize, equip, train, and deploy its Soldiers as part of the joint force.

Environmental Protection Agency

Headquarters, Regions IX and X

Electronic Products

Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Team

Successful Launch of EPEAT

EPEAT was developed out of a three year process funded and staffed by EPA, with the assistance of more than 100 stakeholders. EPEAT provides the criteria for what it means for office electronics to be environmentally preferable and goes beyond Energy Star to focus on a range of energy and environmental attributes. The tool, launched in July 2006, allows Federal purchasers to identify computer products that meet a strict national standard for environmental performance.

Purchasers have access to information on the environmental attributes of more than 500 desktops, laptop computers, and monitors produced by thirteen major manufacturers.

To date, Federal purchasers have integrated EPEAT into Requests For Proposal (RFP) or Federal contracts totaling more than \$42 billion dollars – sending a strong message to the marketplace that there is demand for greener computers on the part of large purchasers. We expect that EPEAT-registered products will be available not just in the Federal market, but in the larger, commercial marketplace.

For fiscal year 2006 and 2007, EPA conservatively estimates that 1.8 billion pounds of hazardous materials will be reduced; 180,000 pounds of non-hazardous materials will be reduced; and 84,000 megawatt hours of energy will be saved through the purchase of EPEAT registered products!

This effort also shows that development of consensus standards and engagement of the marketplace can characterize economically sound environmental stewardship in the future.

Department of Energy
Federal Energy Management Program,
Washington, DC
The Interagency Sustainability Working Group
High Performance Buildings through Innovative Policy

DOE's Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG), serves as a forum for the exchange of information within the Federal government on sustainable design activities. The workgroup consists of about 250 members from 20 Federal departments and agencies and 35 selected members from the private sector, industry, and academia.

The ISWG was instrumental in developing an interagency Memorandum of Understanding on Federal Leadership in High-Performance and Sustainable Buildings. The MOU committed signatory agencies to meet five specific sustainable Guiding Principles for integrated design, energy performance, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, and materials. The ISWG also developed technical guidance for the implementing the Guiding Principles of the MOU.

The significance of the MOU was demonstrated in the recent presidential Executive Order 13423, which made mandatory the five Guiding Principles of the MOU for all new construction and major renovations, and set an aggressive goal for applying these practices to existing capital assets over the next decade.

