

Update from OFEE
DOD Presentation
SWANA WASTECON 2003
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Most of you probably heard me speak in San Antonio at the P2 conference about how all of us are working toward the goals of leading by example, being a good steward of our resources, and being a good neighbor in our communities.

Instead of rehashing that speech, today I'll highlight just a few initiatives we're working on with DoD and other federal agencies. I'll also talk a bit about how we're trying to do a better job of connecting the dots, sharing successes and lessons learned and best practices, forming partnerships, and not reinventing the wheel – and how we need your help to do that better.

Overview of the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

- We were established in 1993 by Executive Order (10 years ago, this month).
- We are working to promote sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the federal government.

We're focusing on particular issues, which I'll talk about today, because each is important in its own right and because each issues also helps to connect other dots, helping us to do other things better, to streamline operations and planning, to make our operations more efficient and effective.

Our Work on EH&S Excellence (Compliance and Beyond)

- At the top of the list is our objective of complying with the law.
- There are no ifs, ands, or buts – we have to meet the requirements.
- So we're promoting the use of management systems – bring people together from environmental, health and safety, energy, facilities, security, budget, legal, transportation, housing and work together to tackle shared problems and opportunities.
- We've made significant progress – 20 federal facilities now are registered to ISO 14001, more than 200 federal facilities have or are far along in developing EMSs, and more than 1,000 federal employees have been trained on EMS in the last year.
- OFEE, EPA, and others are developing templates and modules (e.g., electronics recycling, green purchasing, NEPA compliance, and regulatory compliance) to more clearly illustrate how these requirements can be embedded in an agency's EMS.
- We're also looking to find ways to improve compliance assistance – how can we do a better job of having the folks who've already invented the wheel share that wisdom and those lessons learned with others?
- OFEE and the interagency environmental management workgroup are leading a comprehensive effort for the President's Management Council to assess agencies' compliance assurance mechanisms. The team will review the information, develop recommendations, and promote the use of EMS.

- Compliance is just the bare minimum, though.
- We also know that we should be striving to function more efficiently and effectively by improving our performance beyond compliance.
- DOD is working with ECOS, MSWG, and OFEE to use EMSs to enhance the relationship between Federal sites and their communities. We anticipate this will begin with pilot projects, and result in guidance for others.

Our Emphasis on Measuring Performance

- These efforts may or may not work if we don't let folks know that we believe their efforts – and the results – are important.
- So we'll be doing more to track, grade, and improve compliance and performance – consistent with the President's Management Agenda.
- Scorecards for 2002 already have been prepared measuring how we're doing under each major environmental and energy executive order.
- Solid waste and recycling performance are covered on our scorecard for RCRA 6002 and EO 13101. OSD and representatives of the DoD Component HQs have been working with the OFEE staff to create the scorecards with emphasis on aligning federal and DoD policy expectations and performance measures.

Our Work to Improve Green Purchasing

- One of the areas where we're working to bring together programs and work that traditionally has been siloed is with the products and services we purchase.
- Various green product programs have been successful, such as Energy Star – others are new, like biobased and water conservation – and still others should be more successful than they are, like recycled content products.
- We want people to start thinking of these opportunities together, strategically
- So, we're bringing together for the first all the different federal green product programs – to improve strategic coordination, maybe even develop a single website to find information about all the federal green product programs.
- We're also working to improve how we measure our success. As you know, recordkeeping and reporting on what green products we purchase has been difficult. We have a new reporting format that emphasizes compliance and auditing over bean-counting.
- One of the tools we are using is the Federal Procurement Data System, which records information on every contracting action worth \$25,000 or more. Starting in FY 2002, contracting officers were supposed to indicate whether EPA-designated products will be supplied or used in the performance of the contract. The beauty of using FPDS is that you can access the data for your facility, assess your compliance, and implement further education as necessary to achieve compliance.
- We know that we need to make it easier for agencies to buy green products, especially with the government purchase card. Several agencies are developing tools to improve green purchasing -- from the on-line ordering system in use at the Naval Undersea Weapons Systems Division Newport, to asking suppliers to offer catalogs of green products, to EPA working on a green products Blanket

Purchasing Agreement to the Air Force working with GSA to make sure that green products are available through Air Force Advantage.

- We know we need to improve training, so it's easier to understand how to do green purchasing. OFEE and the Office of Personnel Management are developing e-training (golearn.gov), which should be available later this fall.
- OFEE and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine developed and presented train-the-trainer programs, and both continue to offer green purchasing training to acquisition, environmental, and facility personnel. You can find our training materials on our web site, www.ofee.gov.
- The Defense Acquisition University added green purchasing to several courses, including its purchase card training.
- We want green purchasing to be easier to do, so we want to help integrate these decisions into other daily operations. We're working with EPA and others to identify tools to make it easier to integrate green purchasing into environmental management systems.

Our New Federal Electronics Challenge

- A significant component of our green purchasing efforts focus on electronics.
- The federal government spends more than \$50 billion each year on IT products and services.
- We have developed a new challenge program to improve the life cycle management of federal electronic assets.
- We're developing pilots this year and are looking for volunteer agencies and facilities now.
- The full program should start in the spring of 2004.
- In January 2003, EPA launched the Plug-In to eCycling initiative to increase reuse/recycling of electronics. EPA has drafted environmentally sound management guidelines for the program. Federal agencies are participating with many others.
- And America Recycles Day in DC (November 14 and 15) will be another electronics collection event, with keynotes by Acting EPA Administrator Marianne Horinko and DC Mayor Anthony Williams.

Our New Report on Federal Green Buildings

- Another important area that we're focusing on is green buildings – or sustainable or high-performance buildings.
- Why are we interested in them? 3 reasons
- First, buildings affect land use, energy use, communities, and the indoor and outdoor environment.
- Given the size and scope of Federal buildings – the government owns nearly 500,000 buildings covering 3.1 billion square feet, accounting for 0.4 percent of the nation's energy usage, and emitting about 2 percent of all U.S. building-related greenhouse gases – we have the opportunity and responsibility to reduce these impacts.

- Using sustainable principles in buildings can reduce these impacts and also improve worker conditions and productivity, increase energy, water, and material efficiency, and reduce costs and risks.
- Second, sustainable buildings can be showcases to educate people about environmental issues, possible solutions, partnerships, creativity, and opportunities for reducing environmental impacts in our everyday lives. Hundreds of millions of people visit and work in Federal facilities each year.
- And third, green buildings represent the application in one place of many of the sustainable concepts the Federal government is working on – such as environmental management systems, waste prevention and recycling, and green product purchases.
- We recently issued a report – now up on our website, www.ofee.gov – that for the first time describes what all the Federal government is doing – policies and practices – to “green” its building stock.
- The report identifies successes and makes recommendations.
- We already have several important tools in place:
 - The Energy Policy Act of 1992 and Executive Order 13123 require Federal buildings to reduce their energy use by 35 percent by 2010 (compared to 1985).
 - Executive Order 13123 also requires Federal agencies to “apply [sustainable design] principles to the siting, design, and construction of new facilities.”
 - The Office of Management and Budget’s Circular A-11 encourages agencies to incorporate Energy Star[®] or LEED[™] (the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system) into designs for new building construction and renovations.
 - And nine agencies/departments now require the use of LEED[™] or similar tools for their new projects: General Services Administration, Army, Navy (and Marines), Air Force, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Park Service, Department of State, and Department of Health and Human Services.
- And we’re starting to see some nice results:
 - Federal buildings have reduced their energy intensity by 23% since 1985.
 - They’ve cut their carbon emissions by 2.8 million metric tons (like removing 2.1 million vehicles from the road in one year), since 1985.
 - Today, more than 110 Federal buildings are now Energy Star[®] rated.
 - 8 Federal buildings already have been LEED[™] certified, and more than 60 Federal buildings are undergoing LEED[™] certification.
- Our next step is to create a first-ever senior-level federal interagency green building council to better coordinate what we’re doing, share successes and lessons learned, and identify opportunities for making improvements.

Recognition

- And to help with all of this work, we want to do more to recognize those who are doing an outstanding job in these areas.

- Your services have environmental and energy and stewardship awards, and we have the White House Closing the Circle Awards.
- We are in the process of changing and streamlining our awards to make them even more focused on the areas we've talked about today and to improve their prestige.
- We look forward to once again receiving exciting and innovative nominations from the military facilities and organizations.

Conclusion

- There's a lot going on – in your service, in DoD, and across the federal government.
- The basic challenge we face is not how to invent the wheel but instead how to avoid reinventing the wheel.
- We all have to be more proactive in sharing our successes and lessons learned, in reaching out to find others – in our service and department, across the federal government, and in our community – to share information, ask questions, and jointly develop tools, such as DoD's DENIX and individual service web sites, as well as publications like PRO-Act and the Navy's Currents.
- Recognizing that we have limited time and limited resources, we have to be even more creative and efficient in how we work – by using meetings, conference calls, conferences, newsletters, awards programs, electronic list serves, and web-based portals.
- I'm confident we can do this, but every day we will have to work to get there.