



Energy and Environment Quarterly

U.S. Department of Commerce; Office of Administrative Services; Office of Real Estate, Policy, and Major Programs; Energy, Environmental and Transportation Division

DOC Environmental Performance Second Among Federal Agencies

The Department of Commerce ranked second among all federal agencies in its environmental performance on the most recent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) scorecard assessment. This achievement was recently highlighted by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration John Charles in a broadcast email message.

Scorecards track how well the federal government executes targeted management initiatives. Scorecards are completed bi-annually in the areas of Energy Management, Transportation Management, and Environmental Stewardship. Each scorecard, comprised of 5 to 6 metrics, focuses on progress and results, and

holds agencies accountable for attaining their stated goals.

Different aspects of the scorecards are evaluated twice each year; “status” scores are assigned in

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCORECARD Department of Commerce		
	CURRENT STATUS (As of January 1, 2010) ¹	PROGRESS
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP Sustainability Officer: Mr. John F. Charles Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMS report card: X ≥ 80% green & ≤ 5% red on EMS metrics (G) — <10% red on EMS metrics (Y) Green purchasing: X Agency has affirmative procurement program (APP) for all green products and services, demonstrates & monitors compliance, develops corrective actions if applicable, and conducts training (G) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions taken since July 1, 2009: • Support NOAA EMS and developed schedule to complete HC EMS. • Performed Tier 1 (3rd Party) Audits NOAA facilities. • Identified issues arising from new G and provided 10 example contracts containing green requirements. • Completed development and initial implementation of Environmental Stewardship Training. • Implemented SBIP and ESP initiatives.

January while “progress” scores are evaluated in July. Status scores denote overall progress toward an agency’s goals to meet or exceed benchmarks imposed by Executive Orders. Progress scores evaluate the agency’s planned actions for the next six months.

Agency performance on each scorecard is assessed with a stoplight

metric as red, yellow, or green. On the most recent assessment, DOC scored green for both status and progress in the areas of energy management and environmental

stewardship. For transportation management, the Department received a green in progress and a yellow for status, a significant improvement from our prior scorecard.

Performance in these three areas is a grass-roots, all-hands endeavor that takes concerted effort to achieve and sustain. 

Terry Brisbin Nominated as DOC’s Energy Champion for 2010

The National Weather Service’s (NWS) Terry Brisbin has been nominated as this year’s Energy Champion for DOC under the Federal Energy Management Program’s “You Have the Power” campaign.

The campaign is run by the Department of Energy to

recognize “individuals leading by example in federal energy, water, and fleet management.” Terry is the Environmental, Safety, and Energy Program Manager for the NWS Southern Region.

Among other accomplishments, Terry led NWS team efforts to cut

electric bills for several NWS offices by fifty percent by reprogramming or replacing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) controls. He also led NWS efforts to renegotiate electric service contracts for several offices in deregulated (Continued on page 2)

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Did You Know...

- Earth Day is Thursday, April 22. Look for vendors and giveaways in the HCHB lobby from 11 am to 1 pm.
- DOC recently rolled out EZ-GPO software to automatically enable computer power management features on all DOC monitors and desktops. This is expected to save \$447,379 annually in energy costs at HCHB alone, which is equivalent to preventing 2,370 tons of CO2 emissions or planting 394 acres of trees per year.



A Message from Our Director

I am delighted to join the Office of Administrative Services, where the Department's environmental program is a vital component. Over the last few years, the Department has done an excellent job of implementing federal sustainability initiatives, as demonstrated by Commerce ranking second among federal agencies in overall environmental performance on the most recent OMB assessment.

During my tenure, I hope to improve our already high standard of environmental performance. We will continue to implement an environmental management system to track and improve our agency's environmental performance. We have moved forward with greening the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) cafeteria and implementing recycling, electronics stewardship, and other programs to reduce our energy consumption and waste. The Department will also develop an overarching Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan in accordance with Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and

Economic Performance, that will provide a roadmap for integrating energy, environmental, and sustainability programs throughout the Department.

Please join us in the HCHB lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22nd, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Environmentally friendly vendors from across the D.C. metro area will be discussing the green services and products they provide, and our own environmental team will be on hand to provide detailed information about sustainability initiatives here in the HCHB and throughout the Department. Greening the agency is a grass-roots effort. I'd like to thank all Department employees for their dedication and continued support of our environmental and energy programs. I look forward to working with all of you to set a standard of excellence in energy conservation and management. ☺



Mary Pleffner
Director, Office of
Administrative Services

Terry Brisbin, continued



Mr. Terry Brisbin, Environmental, Safety, and Energy Manager for the NWS Southern Region

up to sixty percent per year. Terry is continuing his energy conservation work in 2010 with proposals to replace inefficient light fixtures and switches at NWS offices and a pilot study to cut diesel engine generator run times by fifty percent. Please join us in wishing Terry hearty congratulations! ☺

markets, reducing costs by

President Obama Sets Federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

On January 29, 2010, President Obama announced that the target for federal agencies to cut their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is twenty-eight percent by 2020. As the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. economy, the federal government spent more than \$24.5 billion on electricity and fuel in 2008 alone. Achieving the federal GHG pollution reduction target will reduce federal energy use by the equivalent of 646 trillion BTUs, equal to 205 million barrels of oil or taking 17 million cars off the road for one year, and a cumulative total of \$8 to \$11 billion in avoided energy costs through 2020.

In order to achieve the government-wide 28% reduction, federal agencies have set individual reduction targets. DOC's goal is to reduce its emissions of direct (scope 1) and indirect (scope 2) emissions twenty-one percent by 2020 relative to a 2008 baseline. Direct emissions are GHGs emitted directly on site as a result of agency operations, for example by agency vehicles. Examples of indirect emissions include emissions to produce energy that the agency purchases.

DOC plans to attain the twenty-one percent goal through a reduction in energy intensity, increased use of renewable energy, and a reduction in petroleum use by right-sizing its fleet and promotion of alternative-



fuel vehicles. For example, DOC will be evaluating energy and water consumption at most of its facilities once every four years. These evaluations will suggest ways to cut emissions, utilize renewable energy sources, and suggest opportunities for increasing energy and water use efficiency. DOC is also pursuing alternative financing for energy project implementation, and entering into interagency agreements with the National Technical Information Service, the Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Department of Justice. These agreements will enable DOC to tap into energy efficiency expertise across the federal government. The HCHB is striving for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification for the renovated building, and expects to cut energy consumption by thirty-five percent.

DOC and other agencies must submit their targets for reductions in scope 3 emissions to the White House in June. Scope 3 GHG emissions are derived from indirect sources such as employee commuting, travel, and supply chains. ☺



HCHB Magnolias Designated as Historic

Many of you who have worked in or visited the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) may have noticed the beautiful landscaping that surrounds the building. An integral part of that landscaping is the magnolia trees that were planted shortly after the building was built, making them over 75 years old.

In discussions with the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Washington, D.C. Historic Society, the National Park

Service, and the General Services Administration (GSA), DOC convinced the GSA of the historic nature of the magnolias, and they have been accorded special consideration during the HCHB restoration project. The DOC is working closely with GSA to ensure that as many of the historic magnolias remain on site as possible so that they will continue to grace the exterior of our beautiful building. *SD*



Photo of one of the historic magnolia trees outside HCHB

DOC Transportation Program Implements Internal Scorecard

The DOC Transportation Program earned a green score for status and yellow for progress on the most recent Office of Management and Budget scorecard assessment. This reflects significant improvement in the transportation management score thanks to the hard work and diligence of DOC's fleet community.

One of the actions that helped the Transportation Program to achieve this score was the development of an internal scorecard to measure progress on alternative fuel usage by Operating Unit. The results of the most recent internal scorecard can be found at <http://www.osec.doc.gov/oa/s/Fleet-Bubble-Chart-1stQ.htm>. Those in compliance with the internal goals are displayed in green;

those that did not meet the requirements are noted in red; those that were late and/or only partially met the requirement are highlighted in yellow.

The goal of the Energy, Environmental and Transportation Division of OREPMP is for all Operating Units to actively contribute to meeting our overall goals. The only way to accomplish this task is with continued support from fleet managers and compliance with the suspense dates of all initiatives. The Departmental Fleet Manager, Eston Lewis, asks each individual in DOC's fleet community to do his/her part to achieve success. Additionally, he reminds us that "this is a team effort; we are in this together." *SD*

HCHB Celebrates Earth Day

The Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) will celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22nd with the annual DOC Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony and vendor displays in the main lobby from 11 am to 1 pm.

Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the first Earth Day in 1970 as a nationwide environmental protest to, in his words, "shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda." Earth Day gave the American public a forum to voice its growing concerns about environmental issues, and it continues to do so today.

The Energy, Environmental, and Transportation Division would like to use Earth Day as an opportunity to inform staff about actions they can take at home and at work to

reduce their impact on the environment. Vendors and personnel from several Operating Units will be on hand at HCHB's Earth Day Fair to share information about the sustainable products and services they offer.

Earth Day will also mark the Department of Commerce's third annual Environmental Stewardship Award ceremony, to be held at 11 am in the HCHB auditorium. Please join us in recognizing the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science for their outstanding achievements in environmental stewardship. *SD*

HCHB Cafeteria to Begin Composting

The cafeteria in the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) recently added specific containers for compostable waste such as food scraps, biodegradable plates, napkins, clamshells, and paper. Composting is an environmentally and financially responsible way to dispose of biodegradable waste both at work and at home.

What is composting? Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic matter by

microorganisms like bacteria and fungi into a rich soil that is dark brown or black. This soil acts as an organic fertilizer and can even be used in vegetable gardens. Additionally, composting helps to dispose of food scraps and yard waste that would otherwise make their way to landfills. The EPA estimates that yard trimmings and food residues together constitute 26 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste

to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead!

Composting here in the HCHB cafeteria will help DOC divert a large percentage of waste from landfills, and thus meet the federal waste reduction mandates issued in Executive Orders 13423 and 13514.

You can contribute to the "composting revolution" at DOC by making sure you

separate your waste in the HCHB cafeteria. Questions about composting in the HCHB cafeteria may be directed to gogreen@doc.gov.



Getting to Know Environmental Protection Specialist Morris Thompson



Mr. Morris Thompson,
Environmental Protection Specialist

We'd like to welcome Mr. Morris Thompson, Environmental Protection Specialist, to the Department's Energy, Environmental, and Transportation Division (EETD). Morris joined the Division in January from the Office of Building Management, which he originally joined in April of 2005. Over the past four years, Morris has received several OS/OAS bronze medal awards. He also won the 2009 Employee of the Year award and is a graduate of the Aspiring Leadership Development Program (ALDP) here at DOC.

Morris brings the

Division years of experience in saving water and energy for industrial and manufacturing operations. After earning an engineering degree from the University of Technology in Jamaica, Morris worked for TRW Incorporated (now part of Northrop Grumman) for a decade, where he was involved in the environmental team as well as processing improvements, maintenance, and plant operations. In 1990, he received TRW's prestigious Chairman Award for Innovation for his leadership in integrating laser scanning technology into manufacturing operations. Morris's efficiency improvements saved the company millions of dollars and brought in new business. In 1993, Morris was hired by Beverage Canners International (BCI) to manage the automation of their manufacturing facilities. Morris reduced BCI's energy consumption

considerably by optimizing process water usage and reducing and reclaiming millions of gallons of wastewater.

Morris later oversaw operations, process improvements, and environmental permitting at two large companies. He was hired as a Plant Engineer by United Container LLC in Orlando, Fla, to oversee a \$42 million manufacturing project. In this position Morris applied his environmental knowledge to overcome the permitting and operational challenges posed by the fact that the facility was located less than a mile away from a designated wetland. Morris later joined Spectrum Brand Inc., a subsidiary of Rayovac batteries, to oversee process improvements and maintenance at one of the company's manufacturing facilities in Central Florida. We are looking forward to putting Morris's experience to use in helping DOC to meet its federally mandated

targets for reductions in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Morris can be reached at 202-482-0540 or mthompson2@doc.gov.



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