



Energy and Environment Quarterly

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USPTO Alexandria Campus Earns EPA Energy Star Rating For Building Performance

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) prestigious Energy Star certification was recently awarded to LCOR, building owner of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's (USPTO) Alexandria campus, for achieving strict building performance standards and outstanding energy efficiency.

The Energy Star certification indicates that the Alexandria campus buildings perform in the top 25 percent of all similar commercial buildings nationwide. Only 6,075 buildings have earned this distinction, according to the General Services Administration (GSA). An energy audit by Facility Engineering Associates in 2011 determined that the campus was eligible for the Energy Star certification.

The USPTO Green Team, a team of employees with a common interest to make USPTO more environmentally

friendly, and LCOR collaborate on various energy initiatives such as the Demand Response Program which requires a guaranteed electric load reduction at specified times. The LCOR engineers employ some of the building industry's most advanced operations and maintenance practices.

The USPTO Green Team has focused their education campaign on reminding employees to turn off lights and equipment and use revolving doors among other green practices.

This prestigious Energy Star designation is more tangible evidence that



Michael Mestre (LCOR), Roxanne Fuhrman, Sudan Saha, Maren Williams, Edward Stratchko (LCOR), and Lisle Hannah.

these behaviors make a significant difference in improving building performance. Congratulations to LCOR and USPTO! ♪

DOC Submits 2012 SSPP

On June 30, the Department of Commerce (DOC) completed and submitted the 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) to the Office of Management & Budget. This was the third such annual submission, and detailed the Department's efforts during FY11 to meet sustainability mandates. The SSPP also details the Department's strategy for 2012 and beyond to ensure continued success in the sustainability arena. This year's SSPP detailed a number of innovative initiatives planned for the next twelve months. These include:

- Improved facility utility tracking through EPA's Portfolio Manager;
- Implementation of an energy services agreement to evaluate facilities, upgrade energy efficiency, and increase use of renewable energy;
- Investigation of the feasibility of an employee bicycle share program
- Implementation of a fleet management system to accurately track petroleum use;
- Participation in GSA's plug-in hybrid electric vehicle pilot program; and
- Addition of six sustainable buildings to the real property portfolio. ♪

Inside this issue:

Getting to Know...Mark Crace	2
Toner Cartridge Program	2
Green Tips: Summer AC Use	3
Chevy Volt Arrives at DOC	3
Submit an Article	3
OSEEP Intern Micah Harris	4
"Code Red" Air Quality	4

Did You Know...

The Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) consumed 1,211,558 kWh less in the third quarter of this fiscal year than in the second quarter. That reduction is the equivalent of the average annual electrical consumption of 110 single family homes!

Getting to Know Sustainability Community Member: Mark Crace

“I’m a tree-hugger.” So says Mark Crace, Senior Program Analyst with the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) in Washington, DC. He does not look the part in his pressed suit and sharp tie, but Crace is deeply passionate about environmental stewardship, as evidenced by his leadership of BIS’s sustainability initiatives, and his active participation in the Department’s Environmental Management System Working Group.

Crace came to BIS five years ago from the Pentagon. Prior to that, he was active duty in the US Air Force. At BIS, he handles all Freedom of Information Act



BIS Senior Program Analyst Mark Crace

requests and is BIS’ designated liaison with the Office of the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. As if that does not keep him busy enough, Crace is also BIS’s space manager and is heavily involved in the renovations of BIS offices here in Washington, DC. This role has allowed him to flex his sustainability muscles, as he has pushed for more efficient space management in the new offices, thus requiring less energy and resources. “When we complete our renovation we will have added personnel, but not square footage” he boasts.

Perhaps Crace’s biggest sustainability achievement at BIS has been the instrumental role he has played in promoting telework participation. “Less than two years ago, only 8% of our employees teleworked,” he explains. “Now, 46% of employees telework, and you can see the difference: people are happier and more productive.” However,

his motives are not completely altruistic. “If people commute less, they’re off the road and I can get home faster,” he says with a laugh. Crace has also worked with his colleagues to revolutionize BIS’s filing systems by eschewing traditional paper files in favor of electronic versions. By reducing filing space, the office has been able to add staff workspaces and work more efficiently.

But Crace does more than talk the talk, he walks the walk. He teleworks one day a week, and when he does make the 175-mile roundtrip commute from his home in rural Virginia, he does it in a 60-mpg ultra compact SmartCar. He is a diligent recycler in his personal life, and he buys organic and local food whenever possible. “I have a real passion for environmental issues, both professionally and personally,” he says proudly. “But I recognize the economic practicality of it all, too.” He may be a self-proclaimed tree-hugger, but he wears the title like the badge of honor it is. ☞

DOC’s Toner Cartridge Recycling Program

Through its headquarters, satellite offices and other facilities, DOC recovered nearly 64,000 toner cartridges over the past year to redistribute within HCHB. These are brand new toner cartridges that individual offices within



Toner ready for redistribution.

DOC no longer have use for but may be used by another office. Contributing to this effort in DOC was the Department’s Recycling Initiative, created to engage and educate employees on increasing recycling volume and reducing energy use.

How much has the Department saved by redistributing toner cartridges and not buying additional new cartridges?
\$63,000 and counting

How is the program administered?

OSEEP operates several toner cartridge recovery efforts as part of its overall integrated waste toner management system, including:

- A dual-stream collection site which is staffed daily (room 2064 for used and unused cartridges and the Recycling room for used toner cartridges);
- Office space recycling (collection at paper recycling bins);
- Personal property inventory (used to match printers and cartridges); and
- Daily delivery from field offices.

How are employees educated?

- Employees are educated through:
- Brochures explaining the HCHB recycling program;
 - OSEEP website;
 - “Oops” reminders for employees who

recycle improperly;

- OSEEP’s booth at “Earth Day” events; and
- Annual Recycling Day.

How are improvements measured?

Improvements are measured through progress towards pollution prevention requirements in the SSPP.

What partnerships have been formed?

OSEEP has partnered with all of the Department’s bureaus to promote the recycling of unused cartridges and to promote the availability of these cartridges for use within the Department.

How much has been recycled?

The Department has partnered with GSA to recycle 2.070 tons of used cartridges in FY 11. ☞

Articles Wanted for Future Newsletters

We are currently accepting article and photograph submissions for inclusion in a future edition of *Energy & Environment Quarterly*. For more information contact OSEEP at gogreen@doc.gov.

Green Tips: Efficient Summertime Air Conditioning Usage

Summer has brought record-setting heat across the nation and to the National Capital Region. While the natural reaction is to reach for the thermostat and lower the temperature, the Department of Energy offers the following suggestions:

Leave the Thermostat Alone

An optimal temperature for indoor comfort and energy efficiency is 78 degrees. Also, make sure that no one drops the temperature below 78 in order to cool the house or apartment down faster. The air conditioner cools at the same rate no matter the setting. Adjusting the temperature to 70 degrees will not help your house get to 78 degrees any faster.

Turn on a Fan

In some climates, you can turn the air conditioner off at night and just let ceiling or floor fans-which use

far less energy than an air conditioner-circulate cool air. In warmer climates, fans can still provide a comfortable breeze and

dehumidifier when the temperature rises. Decreasing humidity will increase your comfort level and the effectiveness of your air conditioner. You may even be able to set your air conditioner above 78degrees when using a dehumidifier combined with fans, thus saving even more energy.

Tips for Window Unit Air Conditioners

Don't place lamps or televisions near your window unit. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Set the fan speed on high, except on very humid days. When humidity is high, set the fan speed on low for more comfort. The low speed on humid days will cool your home better and will remove more moisture from the air because of slower air movement through the cooling equipment. ♪

2012					1930				
			Hi	Low			Hi	Low	
June	28	2012	96	70	July	19	1930	102	74
June	29	2012	104	72	July	20	1930	106	76
June	30	2012	97	72	July	21	1930	103	76
July	1	2012	99	77	July	22	1930	100	74
July	2	2012	95	79	July	23	1930	94	72
July	3	2012	98	75	July	24	1930	93	73
July	4	2012	99	75	July	25	1930	100	71
July	5	2012	100	80	July	26	1930	103	75
July	6	2012	100	81	July	27	1930	99	81
July	7	2012	105	82	July	28	1930	91	78
July	8	2012	102	77	July	29	1930	98	76
Avg (hi/lo)...			99.5	76.4	Avg (hi/lo)...			99.0	75.1
Overall average...			88.0		Overall average...			87.0	

DC's record-setting heat (Ian Livingston).

can help move cool air around the house to ease the work load of the air conditioner.

Use the Dehumidifier

"It's not the heat, it's the humidity" is a rock solid truth. Turn on a

DOC Adds Chevy Volt to Fleet

The Office of Administrative Services' Personal Property & Transportation Division has added a Chevy Volt to their fleet at the Herbert C. Hoover Building in Washington, DC. The Volt operates as a pure battery electric vehicle for approximately 35-40 miles on



a full electric charge until its plug-in battery runs out of charge, at which point its gasoline engine powers an electric generator to extend the vehicle's range. The gasoline engine can power the car an additional 350 miles for long trips. The Volt's regenerative braking also contributes to the on-board electricity generation.

The Volt is charged by plugging the car into a basic residential electric outlet or external charging station. A full charge takes approximately 3 hours from a standard 240 VAC outlet. If the majority of round-trips with the new Volt are less than 40 miles, the car will rarely require

gasoline, and will only need to be charged upon return to the building.

By adding the Volt to an existing fleet featuring multiple hybrid vehicles or vehicles which operate on E85 ethanol fuel, the Department strengthens its commitment to reducing fleet petroleum use and promoting sustainable commuting practices. ♪



Micah Harris Spends Summer as Intern for OSEEP



For many high school students, internships are as much a part of summer as pool parties and baseball. This summer, that annual rite of passage brought 16-year-old Micah Harris to the Office of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Programs as an intern. Micah, a rising senior at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC, came to DOC through the DC Summer Youth Employment Program. The program overseen by the

DC Department of Employment Services, has provided summer jobs for thousands of city teenagers for over 30 years.

“This is my first time working in an office environment, and I like it,” Micah says. He spent the majority of his time providing much-needed assistance in cataloging and organizing OSEEP’s toner cartridge inventory, separating out cartridges to redistribute elsewhere within DOC.

He also assisted with organizing and simplifying the office’s large amounts of environmental documentation. While Micah does not have an interest in pursuing an environmental career at this point, he says he is “willing to learn anything” and his enthusiasm was felt throughout the office.

Born and raised in DC, Micah excels as both an athlete and a student. He is the starting quarterback for the

Wilson football team, where he led the squad to the cusp of the city playoffs last season. “I think this season we can take it to the next level,” he declares with a smile.

He also participates in the Army JROTC program at the school, and is entering his senior year needing only a handful of credits to graduate. His excellent academic record will allow him to focus on college applications, community service, and the inevitable football recruiters, rather than stressing about his grades. “I’m so happy to be so close to graduation and not have to worry about my credits,” explains Micah. “It is a huge weight off my shoulders.”

Micah hopes to suit up for a college football team one day, and will pursue business management as a field of study. For now, though, we wish Micah success on completing his senior year. ♪

“Code Red” Air Quality Days...What Does That Mean?

Summertime means that weather conditions are favorable for the formation of ground-level ozone. It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of all summertime respiratory-related hospital visits in some areas of the U.S. are associated with ozone pollution. Emissions from motor vehicles are the primary source of ozone-causing pollutants along with gasoline vapors and chemical solvents. Heat and sunlight are important factors in ozone formation causing ozone pollution to peak during the months of April through October. Ozone pollution has the potential to affect the health of anyone who spends time outdoors in the summer but children, the elderly, outdoor workers and people exercising are most at risk.

These health concerns are one of the main reasons that air quality awareness is important. Air Quality Action Days (Code Orange and Code Red days) are usually called on hot, muggy days with little wind, when the amount of ground-level ozone is predicted to approach unhealthy levels and the federal standard for ozone could be exceeded. Local television and radio stations alert listeners of the prediction. On such days, simple, voluntary actions can

be taken to help reduce the risk of ground-level ozone.

7 Things You Can Do to Reduce Ozone Formation:

1. Instead of driving, share a ride, take public transportation, walk or bike.
2. Keep your car well maintained to limit excess emissions.
3. Refuel your car after 7 pm to limit vapors.
4. Avoid using outboard motors, off-road vehicles, or other gasoline powered recreational vehicles.
5. Wait to mow your lawn until late evening or a day with no health warnings. Also, avoid using gas powered garden equipment.
6. Use latex paints instead of oil-based paints, solvents, or varnishes that produce fumes.
7. If you are barbecuing, use an electric starter instead of charcoal lighter fluid.
8. Conserve energy to reduce energy needs.

For more information see www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm ♪



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