



Energy and Environment Quarterly

U.S. Department of Commerce; Office of Administrative Services; Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs

Special Earth Day Edition

2011 Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards



Frederick Stephens (front), the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Senior Sustainability Officer, presents the award to NIST's winning team. Back row from left to right: Brian Dougherty, Dennis Campbell, Daniel Gilmore, Stella Fiotes, and Jatin Patel.

Sustainability Performance Plan team were honored for their success in drafting the department's first Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan and establishing a dedicated sustainability communication network at Commerce;

- And the NOAA NOS Florida Keys National

Marine Sanctuary was honored for implementing a suite of projects ranging from the installation of innovative solar power technologies to the selection of alternative products for vessel maintenance that together have significantly reduced grid energy consumption, water consumption, and fleet petroleum use.

The department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Senior Sustainability Officer Frederick Stephens presented the awards to the winning teams. Congratulations to the winners! For more information on the awards, contact Rosaline Hill at 202-482-5949 or rhill9@doc.gov.

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Inside: Earth Day Around Commerce



Census Bureau Director Dr. Robert Groves gives a tree to Census employee Bernadette Gray.

The U.S. Census Bureau demonstrated its commitment to the environment during Earth Week by recycling cell phones, giving away trees and standing up a green suggestion box. Even the children at the daycare center got in on the act.

“The program was a tremendous success and an

The Department of Commerce celebrated Earth Day on April 20, 2011 with its fourth annual Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony honoring outstanding efforts in promoting environmental stewardship across the department. This year there were six winning teams:

- The National Institute of Standards and Technology was honored for sourcing more than 5 percent of its energy from renewable sources in FY10;
- The Herbert C. Hoover Building Green Team was honored for implementing a toner cartridge recycling and reuse program with annual

savings estimated at \$50,000;

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service's (NOS) Coastal Services Center in Charleston, S.C., was honored for installing an innovative rainwater harvesting system to redirect stormwater from roofs into native planting beds and a rain garden;
- NOAA NOS National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science were honored for reducing the use and increasing the recycling of toxic chemicals;
- Members of the department's Strategic

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USPTO, HCHB, and BEA Celebrate Earth Day

The Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) celebrated Earth Day 2011 by embracing the theme “Commerce Celebrates Earth Day Every Day.” Vendors and bureaus

presented educational displays in the main lobby on topics ranging from hybrid automobiles and solar panels to waste management. Staff and

children from the daycare center planted flowers and painted pictures of the Earth. Guests learned about alternative energy, greenhouse gases, water pollution, water conservation, soil conservation, and other common environmental issues. More than 20 exhibits included hands-on activities such as spring planting, and reducing, reusing and recycling.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

spent Earth Day greening the tree boxes outside its building in downtown Washington, D.C., doing spring cleaning around the office, and spreading the word among staff about the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) celebrated with its third annual Green Fair on April 19. Numerous USPTO groups and vendors, including the Patents Green Tech Program, Trademark Work at Home, Commuter Connections, and Telework Exchange, provided information on how to be “green” at work, at home, and in between. Energy efficient hybrid vehicles as well as fanciful artwork from the Innovation Station Child Care also contributed to the event’s success. 



NOAA Reaches Out Across the Country

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) celebrated Earth Day around the country. The Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary staff presented interactive exhibits about the sanctuary’s resources at several local celebrations, including the Aquarium of the Pacific, the City of Oxnard’s Earth Day festival, and the Ventura Earth Day Ecofest, reaching an estimated 35,000 people.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosted its second annual Earth Day fair on April 21. Elementary school students, teachers, and others spent the day learning about the natural and maritime resources found throughout northern Michigan. The event included exhibits on invasive species, native species, recycling, a river watershed model, fossils, and more.

On Friday, April 22, NOAA’s Monitor National

Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) participated in an Earth Day event held at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. The MNMS table focused on marine debris and featured a spin-the-wheel game designed to get the public thinking about how its everyday actions affect the earth and the ocean.

Finally, in Baton Rouge, La., NOAA reached out to more than 30,000 citizens at the state’s Earth Day fair on April 17. Vicki Loe and Capt. Michele Finn of the NOAA Disaster Response Center were on hand to answer questions about last year’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill. NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration had a wetlands-themed exhibit, allowing visitors to get an up-close look at actual samples of Deepwater Horizon/BP oil in various stages, from partially emulsified oil to tarballs. The exhibit also featured information on the new Gulf of Mexico Disaster

Census Bureau, con’t

opportunity to highlight our green initiatives at the Census Bureau,” said Director Robert Groves. The children from the daycare center put on a parade and mini-concert to stress the importance of recycling. Census employees donated 161 cell phones, hundreds of batteries and dozens of accessories to “e-Cycle”, which will recycle them for charitable causes. Several organizations donated raffles and prizes, including the National Arbor Day



Foundation, which sent 100 trees to give away. To read about the green data collected and published by the Census Bureau, be sure to check out its Random Samplings blog: <http://blogs.census.gov/>. 

Response Center scheduled to open this fall in Mobile, Ala. Students and visitors to the booth learned of the center’s plans to become a regional

resource of NOAA information, risk communications, contingency planning for communities, and training. 

What has OSEEP done for you lately?



The OSEEP team in November 2010. Back row from left to right: Eli Veenendaal, Morris Thompson, Greg Falzetta, Roger Lueken, Rosaline Hill, Bob Scinta, Jennifer Brundage, and Katie Hite. Front row: Carter Boggess, Frank Monteferrante, Rob Tomiak, Genevieve Walker, Rachel Roberts, and Jill Dowling.

In addition to coordinating the Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards and an Earth Day event at the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) in April, the Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP) has been busy with several initiatives and outreach programs.

OSEEP has developed and is improving a toner cartridge recycling and swap program within HCHB that received one of this year's Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards and has saved the department an estimated \$20,000 to date. OSEEP has also completed a draft Department Administrative

Order (DAO) and guidance document, the Energy and Environmental Management Manual (EEMM), a comprehensive, 32-chapter one-stop shopping guide to the department's energy and environmental program requirements for facility managers. OSEEP is soliciting representative photos from each of the 12 bureaus to create a collaborative cover for the EEMM. If your bureau has interesting and representative energy or environmental photos to include, please contact Rachel Roberts at rroberts@doc.gov.

With the help of energy and environmental colleagues at the 12 bureaus, OSEEP submitted the department's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) update, due to

the President's Office of Management and Budget in early June, two weeks early. OSEEP is also supporting the Office of Real Property Programs and the Office of Policy and Strategic Planning in developing the department's first climate change adaptation plan and assessment, as required by Executive Order 13514.

OSEEP is also leading a Lean Six Sigma continuous process improvement event for the annual energy and environmental data call. The improvement team includes representatives from four bureaus and two other Office of Administrative Services offices. The team's goal is to reduce the length of time required to complete the data call process by at least 10 percent.

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NTIA Protects Endangered Desert Tortoise

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs team recently saved approximately \$1 million and overcame a major challenge to one of the largest single Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants, a \$100 million project that will pass through the habitat of the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). This politically sensitive project plans to lay buried fiber optic cable along a road covering 583 miles through California and Nevada.

Approximately 80 miles of the road border habitat of the endangered desert

tortoise, which is also the official State of California reptile. Initial consultations with the National Fish and Wildlife Service (NFWS), which oversees the protection of endangered species, indicated that the grantee would have to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts associated with its project. This would have taken up to two years to complete and cost up to \$1.5 million, effectively derailing the project since construction will require a minimum of two years and BTOP projects are required to be completed within three years of the award. Additionally, the grant did not have sufficient funds to

cover the additional \$1 million required to prepare the EIS.

Through diligent research, the team discovered that cars are one of the main causes of desert tortoise mortality. The state of California had planned to erect fencing along the 80-mile section of road bordering tortoise habitat to keep the animals out of harm's way, but had been unable to fence more than half of the road due to funding constraints. Armed with this information, the team brokered an agreement between the grantee, the State of California Department of Transportation, and the NFWS whereby the grantee will pay to erect the remaining 50 percent of the



fencing, the State of California will allow the grantee to use its existing permit to erect the fencing, and the NFWS will allow the project to move forward without a formal EIS. This action has saved taxpayers approximately \$1 million, will save countless desert tortoises from injury on busy roads, and allows a wonderful project that will provide broadband services to 36 communities and six Indian reservations to proceed. For more information, please contact Genevieve Walker at 202-482-2345 or gwalker@doc.gov. 



BTOP environmental team lead Dr. Frank Monteferrante

Please help us welcome environmental specialist Dr. Frank Monteferrante to the Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP). He leads a team of six experts who review environmental and cultural resource assessments for 118 Broadband Technology

Getting to Know BTOP Team Lead Dr. Frank Monteferrante

Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants worth a total of \$4.7 billion. Dr. Monteferrante and his team face several challenges, including tight deadlines, coordination with Native American tribes and federal land management agencies, and managing projects traversing sensitive endangered species habitat.

Although Dr. Monteferrante is new to OSEEP, he has been with the Department of Commerce since 1986. Dr. Monteferrante worked for 23 years as Senior

Environmental Officer and Director of the Compliance Review Division for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). For the last two years he has led National Environmental Policy Act reviews as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)'s only environmental specialist.

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Dr. Monteferrante worked as a Natural Resources Planner for the State of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Program, where he directed

the planning, acquisition and administration of a multi-site Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Sanctuary Program. He holds a doctorate in Marine Sciences from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Monteferrante looks forward to successfully completing the reviews for all BTOP infrastructure grant awards so that high speed broadband technology is more widely available throughout the nation. Dr. Monteferrante can be reached at 202-482-4208 or fmonteferrante@ntia.doc.gov
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NIST Boulder Recognized by FEMP *You Have the Power* Campaign



Congratulations to Stephen Salber, Jim Boyd, Jim Bursleson, and Scott Burke from the National

Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Engineering, Maintenance, and Support Services Division (EMSS) in Boulder, Co., on winning this year's Federal Energy Management Program *You Have the Power* campaign.

The *You Have the Power* campaign spotlights individuals leading by example in federal energy, water, and fleet management. The NIST team was recognized for completing several innovative energy

conservation projects in 2010 that contributed to reducing the 84-hectare NIST Boulder, Co., campus's energy intensity (energy consumption per square foot) by 17.6 percent (compared to a 2003 baseline) and exceeding its federally mandated energy conservation target for 2010 by nearly 3 percent. The team's achievements include installing solar-powered street lighting, modernizing building control systems, and negotiating with the

local utility to purchase wind-generated electricity. For more information, please contact the Department's Energy Manager, Bob Scinta, at 202-482-3114. 50



OSEEP Update, con't

OSEEP has also been busy supporting the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on 118 of its Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants that require some level of environmental review. To date they have cleared about 65 percent of the BTOP grants, enabling \$1.9 billion in projects to

commence.

Finally, OSEEP took its "Helping to Make a Sustainable World" road show to the Census Bureau on April 14, the "Big A" Acquisition Conference on May 4, the Office of Financial Management's annual employee focus group meeting on June 1, the Office of Acquisition Management on June 8, and

the Office of Security on June 14. OSEEP covers federally mandated goals, department progress, and how individual employees can make a difference. To schedule an "all hands" road show for your bureau, please contact Rob Tomiak at 202-482-6212 or rtomiak@doc.gov. 50

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