



Energy and Environment Quarterly

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Did You Know...

In FY 2011, the Herbert C. Hoover Building used over 52,000,000 gallons of water at a cost of \$543,000.

This was a 17% decrease in water usage from FY 2010.

The water reduction is the equivalent of the daily water use of 31,500 homes!

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EDA Partners With Gulf of Mexico Foundation

In January 2012, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) provided a \$1.16 million grant to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GMF) for the construction of a LEED-certified Habitat Restoration Technology & Training Center in Galveston, Texas. To be completed in 2013, the facility will function as a center for workforce development, technical assistance, and outreach services serving the range of communities and entities which use and depend upon the health of the Gulf of Mexico. GMF has played a leading stewardship role for the Gulf for over 20 years.



Proposed GM F Habitat Restoration Technology & Training Center Credit: Gulf of Mexico Foundation

The Training Center represents a unique opportunity to unite historically fragmented restoration and training efforts and help reverse the serious decline in the overall health of the Gulf. This is an excellent example of how EDA is partnering with the private sector to realize the Administration's goals of sustainable economic development and additional green jobs.

Motivation to construct the Center grew out of the devastation wrought upon the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Jonathan Markley, PhD,

the EDA Regional Environmental Officer in Austin, Texas, collaborated with Frank Monteferrante, PhD, who served at that time as Senior Environmental Officer at EDA headquarters in Washington, DC. They recognized the need to unite disparate stakeholders living and working in the Gulf to respond to similar disasters and begin habitat restoration efforts. Later, the 2010 Gulf oil spill further amplified these needs.

Markley and Monteferrante cultivated a relationship with GMF, seeing that their expanding mission and facility needs dovetailed nicely with EDA's efforts to stimulate economic growth in the Gulf region. Six years later, the Center is close to becoming a reality. "It will fill a void in the habitat restoration community" Markley explained. "The Center will offer multiple courses for individuals to become certified in coastal restoration, as well as possibly providing assistance to Federal Emergency Management Agency 'strike teams' in the event of future disasters."

The LEED-certified facility will sit on a site in Galveston, Texas just a stone's throw from the waters of the Gulf. Included on-site are 15 acres of natural wetlands, to be restored and preserved as a "living outdoor classroom." Inside the facility will be classrooms, GMF offices, conference space, a library, a kitchen and educational exhibits. GMF President Quenton Dokken, PhD sees the Center as the beginning of great things for the organization and the Gulf. "We are grateful to the EDA and our corporate donors in this public-private partnership" he said in a recent press release. "The Center will provide tremendous returns to the Gulf of Mexico for many years to come." ☞

Department Sustainability Efforts Pay Off With Strong OMB Scorecard

On the FY11 OMB Sustainability & Energy Scorecard, DOC achieved "green" scores on five of seven mandates. This indicates continued improvement towards achieving the Administration's long-range sustainability goals. DOC achieved "green" on:

- Greenhouse Gas Scopes 1&2 Reduction
- Energy Intensity Reduction
- Fleet Petroleum Use Reduction
- Water Intensity Reduction
- Renewable Energy Use

Getting to Know A Sustainability Community Member—David R. Ives

David Ives serves as the Sustainability Coordinator for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). In this role, Ives crafts sustainability policy and oversees the implementation of programs which fulfill the EDA's economic development and job creation mission while simultaneously enhancing environmental quality and community sustainability. "Investments in environmentally-sustainable economic development are essential to improving the Nation's competitiveness" Ives explains.

The EDA provided \$72 million in support of green projects in FY2011

Ives began his career with EDA six years ago as the agency's National Brownfields Coordinator, responsible for leading EDA's brownfield redevelopment efforts in distressed communities and regions. Since assuming the role of Sustainability

Coordinator, he has sharpened the agency's focus on green development, emphasizing the connection between economic growth and environmental stewardship. The proof of this focus is in the numbers. "In Fiscal Year 2011, our grants budget was approximately \$250 million," Ives remarks. "Nearly \$72 million of that supported green projects."

These green projects included assistance to a technical institute in South Dakota for purchasing a wind turbine as a green jobs training tool, and helping the State of Delaware establish a renewable energy revolving loan fund. These are in addition to incorporating sustainability goals into typical economic development projects. Ives explains that the marriage is an easy one because "sustainable development is closely tied to smart location choices for a business."

Green Tips: Improving Fuel Economy



Since 2005, the Department has achieved a 13% reduction in fleet petroleum use, and is on track to meet the 20% reduction goal by 2015 mandated by an Executive Order signed by President Obama in 2009. This has been achieved through fleet size reduction and the integration of more fuel-efficient vehicles.

At home, you may not be able to reduce the size of your own "fleet" of vehicles, but you can realize fuel efficiency success by following some of these tips:

- **Observe the Speed Limit:** In addition to the obvious safety benefits, avoiding high speeds improves fuel efficiency. Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Recent studies by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory indicate that each 5 mph driven over 60 mph increases the cost of the burned gasoline by more than \$0.30 per gallon.

Ives is now working closely with counterparts at the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This effort seeks to encourage the development of "Green Places" in distressed communities. EDA will focus investment on mixed-use, transit-oriented projects that increase community revitalization, improve job access and preserve undeveloped lands.



Through initiatives such as Green Place, Ives will continue to merge EDA's economic development and job creation mission with sustainability ideals. "The environmental benefits of green growth projects are ancillary to, and complementary of, the projects' economic impacts" says Ives. "Sustainability is a job-creator." ∞

Upcoming Events

April 19	DOC HCHB Earth Day Event
April 22	Earth Day 2012
April 27	Arbor Day 2012 (www.arborday.org)
May	FEMP Energy Awards
June 29	Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) update due to White House Council on Environmental Quality
Late June	DOC Energy & Environmental Management Manual to be published (Tentative)

- **Drive Sensibly:** Aggressive driving tactics such as sudden acceleration and hard braking wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds and by 5% around town.

- **Remove Excess Weight:** Do your golf clubs *really* need to ride shotgun at all times? An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle can reduce your MPG by 2%. The reduction is based on the percentage of extra weight relative to the vehicle's weight and affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.

- **Avoid Excessive Idling:** Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size. Turn off your engine when your vehicle is parked. Modern fuel injection systems only consume a few seconds worth of fuel to restart the vehicle.

Visit www.energysavers.gov/your_vehicle for more information. ∞

USPTO Maintains & Expands Innovative Telework Program for All Employees



Over a decade ago, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) began a pilot telework program with 18 participants. Today, more than 5,900 bureau employees telework at least one day per week, and the USPTO program has become a model for other federal organizations to follow, gaining a dozen industry accolades for telework innovation and vision.

More importantly, the program has significantly reduced commuter emissions and employee fuel costs.

Roxanne Fuhrman, an Environmental & Building Management Specialist at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, teleworks two days a week. “Telework eliminates the cost of commuting on those days, including parking and fuel” Fuhrman explains. “That’s more time and resources for me – for exercise, sleep, cooking home meals rather than carry-outs, walking my dog, and other pleasures.”

Telework also makes business sense. In an interview for the bureau’s telework annual report, USPTO Director David Kappos explained that the bureau uses telework “as a business strategy and human capital flexibility tool.” Telework allows the bureau to fulfill its mission by providing flexibility when recruiting and retaining a highly skilled workforce. Fuhrman counts this as a deciding factor in her decision to work for USPTO. She describes it as like having a portable office. “My work isn’t disrupted due to inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, or other situations.”

EPA Portfolio Manager Training Online



Free online training is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the use of the EPA Portfolio Manager system for tracking a federal building’s energy consumption, water consumption, and progress towards becoming sustainably certified. DOC facility managers who have not yet taken the training, or who simply want a “refresher course” can go

to www.osec.doc.gov/oas/OSEEP/training.html to view three training videos tailored to Department of Commerce facilities.

Portfolio Manager is a free interactive energy management tool that allows facility managers to easily track and assess energy and water consumption across their entire portfolio of buildings in a secure online environment. Portfolio Manager can also be used to track a building’s pursuit--and achievement of--the Five Guiding Principles for High-Performance Sustainable Buildings, and pursuit of EPA Energy Star ratings. The multi-faceted program allows facility managers to rate building energy performance, estimate a building’s carbon footprint, set building investment priorities, and track the completion of improvement projects. ♪

Recently the bureau amended and expanded their telework policy to lift the biweekly reporting requirement for full-time teleworking employees who live within 50 miles of USPTO headquarters. These employees can now change their duty stations to their home addresses and continue to provide excellent service in pursuit of the USPTO mission.

One Year, 3,200 USPTO Employees, One Weekly Telework Day:

Avoids over 7.9 million vehicle miles

Saves over \$1.0 million in gas

Reduces GHG emissions by 4,150 MTCO_{2e}

“Many employees told us they believed the biweekly reporting requirement needed to be lifted, and we listened” explained Director Kappos. “Now, employees can live anywhere in the country while still having successful careers at the USPTO.” Fuhrman puts the benefits into even more personal terms, saying “I’m in much better shape to meet the demands of my job, and telework undoubtedly has a positive impact on my personal life.” ♪



Landscape photos of Mendocino, CA (top) & Sedona, AZ (bottom) by Jill Dowling, DOC Office of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Programs

The HCHB Arts Committee runs a quarterly “Call for Artists” to display in the lobby outside the Secretary’s office. The theme for the summer exhibit is “Black and White,” and entries (any media) are due by Thursday May 3.

Contact DOCArts@doc.gov for more information.

2012 DOC Energy & Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

After a successful Process Improvement Event, the Office of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Programs received 25 strong nominations for the 2012 Energy & Environmental Stewardship Awards. The nominees spanned the entire Department, and each one represented the highest ideals of sustainability, innovation, and stewardship. The following awardees will be formally recognized at 2:30pm on April 19 in the HCHB Auditorium as part of DOC's Earth Day 2012 Celebration:

Fuel Conservation

CENSUS ACSD Transit Benefits Team

Building The Future

Winner: NOAA Aircraft Operations Center Green Team

Runner-up: NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center Team

Good Neighbor

NTIA BTOP Historic Preservation Team

Green Dream Team

Winner: ITA Clean Energy Export Initiatives Leadership Team

Runner-up: NOAA OCAO Maximum Telework Program Team

Green Innovation

Winner: EDA Environmental Economic Development Team

Runner-up: ITA League of Green Embassies Team

Green Purchasing

CENSUS ACSD Space Management Team

Recycling

Winner: USPTO Green Team

Runner-up: NOAA NMFS Montlake Laboratory Green Team

Renewable Energy

NIST Photovoltaic Array Team

Sustainability Hero

NOAA Environmental Compliance Team

Energy & Water Management

Winner: HCHB OSBM HVAC & Electrical Shop

Runner-up: Mr. William Cruz, Building Management Specialist
HCHB OSBM



The next issue of Energy Environment Quarterly will include additional information on each of the category winners. Congratulations to all of the awardees, and thank you to all the nominees.



NOAA Bike Team Prepares for "National Bike To Work Day" on May 18th

The NOAA Bike Team is a group of employees at NOAA's Silver Spring, MD campus committed to the idea of using their wheels and a little human power to improve their quality of life and their environment. The group supports fellow NOAA cyclists by managing the bike lockers in the Silver Spring campus garage, offering educational events on bike maintenance, and maintaining a service locker where cyclists can find tools and repair parts.

The group's capstone event is National Bike to Work Day (BTWD), held annually since 2008. This year's event will be on May 18th, and will include a "juicer" social at the Silver Spring campus for participating cyclists. The juicer has historically been a great experience to celebrate environmental success and let employees have a little springtime fun.

If you are interested in participating in BTWD at NOAA, or elsewhere within the DC Metro Region, please register at <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org>. Registration includes refreshments, entry into a bike raffle, and a free shirt.



*U.S. Department of Commerce;
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Environmental Programs (OSEEP)*

New Department Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs

In December, Secretary of Commerce John Bryson appointed Dee Alexander as his Senior Adviser on Native American Affairs. Ms. Alexander formerly directed American Indian and Alaska Native and decennial communication program activities as a Program Analyst for the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Alexander, a member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe, works to promote the Secretary's vision for job creation and economic growth on American Indian and Alaska Native communities, while protecting and respecting their unique environmental and historical attributes.

Most importantly, she oversees and implements the Department's Tribal Coordination and Consultation Policy. The Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP) currently supports NTIA's ambitious Broadband Technology Opportunities Program by assisting NTIA in meeting the tribal consultation requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. This requires agencies to work directly with tribes to protect sensitive cultural and natural resources. Communication networks are burying fiber across the nation, to bring broadband to rural communities. The Navajo Nation, Nez Perce, Ute, and many other tribes have directly benefitted from such projects.

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