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Bureaus Move Forward With Innovative Energy Savings Agreements

Several bureaus within the Department of Commerce are using an innovative contracting tool to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at their facilities at no upfront cost to the Department. The Department of Justice’s Federal Prison Industries has combined statutory authorities into a unique contract referred to as an Energy Services Agreement (ESA). This type of contract is performance-based, requires the contractor to guarantee energy savings, and does not require upfront funding, offering facility managers a great opportunity to make progress toward sustainability goals in a budget-constrained environment. In simple terms, the projects are funded through a reduction in a facility’s utility bill.

Here’s how an ESA works: a contractor tours your facility and identifies energy saving opportunities or projects, referred to

as energy conservation measures (ECM). For an agreed upon price, the contractor will install new equipment and guarantee a fixed quantity of energy and/or water savings. The facility manager then uses the cost savings on their utility bills to re-pay the contractor gradually for the work, typically over several years. After the work is paid off, the facility manager pockets all future savings. The other aspect of the ESA will allow facility managers to enter into contracts to install on-site renewable energy projects or to purchase renewable energy directly from renewable sources such as wind and solar farms.

The sites targeted for this ESA include the Census Bureau’s National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN; the Herbert C. Hoover Building in Washington, D.C.; both NIST campuses in Gaithersburg, MD, and Boulder, CO; and various NOAA sites

across the country. Contractors are currently visiting the sites and submitting preliminary assessments for review. Several contracts are scheduled to be in place by early 2014.

These projects are expected to help Commerce make substantial progress towards its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 21 percent by 2020, reduce energy consumption per gross square foot of facility space 30 percent by 2015, and to increase the quantity of electricity used that comes from renewable sources to 7.5 percent in 2013 and beyond.

For more information please contact Jennifer Brundage at 202-482-3444 or jbrundage@doc.gov.

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Did You Know...

Our household energy use varies by location and lifestyle choice. The U.S Department of Energy calculated the national average for energy use in homes and found that 8 percent goes to refrigeration, 11 percent goes to air conditioning, 13 percent goes to heating water, 34 percent goes to lighting and other appliances, and 34 percent of our household energy consumed goes to space heating.

Meet A DOC Sustainability Community Member: Rose Cooper

Rose Cooper came to the U.S. Census Bureau five years ago, armed with degrees in health care administration and physical education and bringing with her over two decades of experience in the health industry. She never expected to become Census' primary sustainability representative. Cooper, who is a Management Analyst at the Census Headquarters in Suitland, Maryland, is primarily responsible for overseeing the management and operations of the Suitland Federal Child Development Center (SFCDC), but her additional sustainability role is one in which she takes great pride. "I see sustainability as a good fit with my health and safety background," Cooper explains. "Health, wellness and the environment impact an employee's general quality of life."

As Census' sustainability representative, Cooper is responsible for ensuring accurate bureau data on energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy use are reported to Departmental leadership. She also organizes the annual Census Earth Day Event, writes nominations for Departmental Energy & Environmental Awards (of which Census has won quite a few), and seeks to increase environmental stewardship awareness within Census on a daily basis. One example is her distribution of a weekly "green tip" to Suitland Census employees via digital signs throughout the building. "I have also collaborated with our IT department to

develop the successful 'Get Into The Green Scene' website for Census employees," Cooper adds proudly.

But Census is a large organization, and Cooper's duties extend to the Census' National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, Indiana, an 11-building campus.



It is the strong partnership she has forged with Harold Harned, the facilities manager at NPC, of which Cooper is most proud. "Sustainability requires collaboration" she says. Cooper, Harned, and additional NPC staff have worked closely with General Services Administration (GSA) representatives to greatly improve the sustainability of the NPC. An example of this strong partnership is the significant waste diversion rate the NPC has achieved in recent years. From FY11 to FY12, Census increased their waste diversion rate three-fold. Alfred Davis of the NPC explains that they are on track to divert 80 percent of their waste from landfills in FY13,

meeting their self-imposed goals. Davis explains that Harned "met with waste company representatives numerous times to determine if a single stream recycling process would work at NPC. The initial review indicated that at least 80 percent of the trash contents were recyclable."

Cooper has also played a collaborative role, alongside Sarabeth Rodriguez, in Census' Transit Subsidy Program, which was a great success in Suitland and is now being rolled out at Bureau facilities nationwide. Cooper says it is "going quite smoothly" so far.

Collaborations like these are what give Cooper great pride in her role as Census' sustainability representative. So much pride, in fact, that she is even thinking of adding another degree: an Environmental Management masters certificate. "I want to learn more," she says of her newfound passion for sustainability. Surely that thirst for knowledge and desire for collaboration mean greater sustainability success lies ahead for Census—and for all of DOC.



Inaugural Department of Commerce Green Grant Program

In March, the Department began issuing solicitations for projects that will be eligible for Green Grant funding, something it plans to do annually. The Green Grant program will fund projects that make progress toward the Department's sustainabil-

ity mandates and goals. The program can also fund employee program projects related to fitness centers and child care centers. The Green Grants panel is comprised of representatives from each Bureau to ensure fairness in the selection process.

Details on the new Green Grant program are available under the Quick Links tab at:

<http://www.osec.doc.gov/oas/OSEEP/default.htm>



OSEEP Opens Green Store at HCHB with Great Success



Ellen Herbst, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary performing the non-exclusive duties of the CFO.

The HCHB Green Team has generated several “Green Ideas” for the Department of Commerce over the past few years. The most recent Green Team idea led to the recycling and internal reuse of unused toner cartridges, saving the Department about \$100,000 in its first year. That idea was so successful that the HCHB Green Team studied options to expand the program to other used, but still good office supplies. That led to the birth of ‘The Green Store,’ a room where employees can drop off excess office supplies and pick up supplies others have donated at no cost. The ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Green Store took place on HCHB’s Earth Day Celebration on April 24, 2013. The store is operated out of H2508 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and staffed by interns and member of the Green team to save additional funds.

The concept will work well if HCHB offices scrutinize supplies in their cabinets and closets. Most offices tend to accumulate

more supplies over time than they end up consuming, for a number of reasons. This is exacerbated when offices are relocated in support of the renovation phasing. Large trash containers are frequently requested in support of “house-cleaning” because until now, there has been nowhere to drop off excess office supplies. Further, the current climate budget limitations means that future purchases are getting more scrutiny than in the past and a Department analysis shows that the Green Store has the potential to generate about \$200,000 per year in cost avoidance. It will take the active participation of all employees and offices to really make it effort. Please contact Rosaline Hill at extension #2-5949 if you have any questions.

**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY!
HELP KEEP OUR SHELVES STOCKED
DONATION DROP
#H2064**



DOC Employee Goes Shopping on Opening Day, April 24, 2013.

NOAA Opens LEED Silver Facility in College Park, MD



In September of 2012, NOAA completed a phased move into the newly-completed 268,762 square-foot NOAA Center for Climate and Weather Prediction (NCWCP) in College Park, MD. The NCWCP facility achieved a “Silver” certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED™ Green Building Rating

System, which sets standards for green buildings, verifying that the building is environmentally responsible and healthy for occupants. It has environmentally-friendly features such as planted “green roofs,” bio-retention areas, efficient use of natural light, and a storm water cistern to collect water for irrigation.

Within the state-of-the-art facility, NOAA staff will enjoy a large library, break rooms on each floor, a fitness center, a deli with an outdoor eating terrace, and a conference center consisting of a 464-seat auditorium and three break-out rooms. The College Park Metro Station is a short ten minute walk away and the University of Maryland offers nearby opportunities for collaboration with students, educators, and researchers.

The NCWCP and its associated 10,000 square-foot data center now house equipment from NOAA’s three tenant line offices: the National Weather Service’s National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), the Office of Atmospheric Research’s Air Resources Laboratory (ARL), the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service’s Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR), and Environmental Satellite Processing Center (ESPC).

By taking occupancy, NOAA can now claim nearly a dozen sustainable buildings totaling more than 5,000 gross square feet within its real property portfolio. This commitment to seeking “green” solutions to facility needs will benefit NOAA and the Department for years to come.

DOC Continues Strong Sustainability Progress

2012 marked another year of strong success across the Department in multiple sustainability arenas. Thanks to the efforts of organizations and individuals alike, the Department was able to present a strong Sustainability & Energy Scorecard to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the conclusion of this year's sustainability data call. The Department continues to excel at reducing energy use and water intensity.

The Department is now 21 percent below the 2003 baseline for energy intensity, and is on track to meet its long term reduction goal of 30 percent by 2015. Water intensity has been an even bigger success story. DOC is now 47 percent below the 2007 baseline for that metric, already meeting the long term reduction goal of 26 percent by 2020. The credit for these achievements lies with all Bureaus, from senior leadership to facility managers. Their focus on building efficiency and reductions in unnecessary square footage have been paramount to the Department's success.

In the area of Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

emissions, the Department continues to show long term progress against the 2008 baseline, as well year-to-year progress. GHG Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which come primarily from the use of electricity and natural gas, are down 2 percent from 2008 and 3 percent from 2011. GHG Scope 3 emissions, of which employee commuting comprise the majority of, remain slightly above their 2008 baseline, but the Department has achieved a significant 2.1 percent decrease since 2011. Increased participation in telework, availability of mass transit subsidies, and the use of alternative transportation such as vanpools and carpools can all be counted as contributing factors in the GHG Scope 3 reductions.

Fleet petroleum use represents another bright spot for the Department. By increasing the availability of alternative fuel vehicles and replacing aging inefficient vehicles, the Department used 27.6 percent less fleet petroleum in 2012 than in the baseline year of 2005. This already exceeds the long term goal of a 20 percent reduction by 2015.

While much work is left to be done, and challenges remain, another strong year by the Department in the sustainability arena shows the strong Department-wide commitment to environmental stewardship.



Teleworking Advantages

Just a few of the environmental and social advantages of teleworking.

Decreases Commuting Time Reduces Carbon Footprint Increases Productivity Levels
Decreases Commuting Costs Decreases Commuter Stress Levels

“Work is something you do, not somewhere you go.”

Welcome to the Community

The DOC is happy to welcome two new team members to the Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP). Ms. Jennifer Brundage accepted the civilian position of Energy and Water Program Manager. Ms. Tara Frates accepted the contract position of Energy and Environmental Project Manager.



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