



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXECUTIVE

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PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS HONORED AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Federal employees representing Federal departments and agencies from across the United States gathered today at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, in Washington, DC, to accept awards for their commitment to environmental stewardship. The awards presented today are part of the White House “Closing the Circle” awards program under Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*. This Executive Order, signed by President Bush on January 24, 2007, is designed to further expand and strengthen the Federal government's commitment to effective use of Environmental Management Systems; acquisition of green products and services; pollution prevention, including reduction or elimination of the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials; cost-effective waste prevention and recycling programs; sustainable design/high performance buildings; vehicle fleet management, including the use of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels; and electronics stewardship.

“The President has called on each of us to become aware, to participate and to contribute to environmental care, and for the Federal government to lead by example, be a good neighbor, and be a good steward for our natural resources.” said Joe Cascio, the Federal Environmental Executive. “In that spirit, the Closing the Circle Awards recognize individuals, teams, and organizations that went that “extra mile” and have answered the President’s call.”

Created by executive order, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) is part of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and works to promote sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the Federal government by assisting agencies in integrating environmental considerations into their operations.

2008 WHITE HOUSE CLOSING THE CIRCLE AWARDS WINNERS

Environmental Management Systems – Military

U.S. Air Force

Robins Air Force Base, GA
Environmental Management Systems Team
Environmental Management for the Future

Robins Air Force Base is located on more than 8,000 acres in Georgia and employs more than 25,000 people, making it the largest industrial facility in the state. It is situated near thousands of acres of wetlands, making its demonstrated leadership in environmental stewardship particularly worthy of commendation.

Robins AFB has created a focused, leadership-driven EMS by incorporating its existing environmental programs into an integrated management system, which also includes safety and occupational health principles.

Some of their key EMS successes include:

- The diversion of more than 20,000 tons of both construction and demolition and non- construction and demolition solid waste from the landfill, saving \$1.3 million in total lifecycle cost.
- The composting of ALL yard and stable waste for use in landscaping projects, avoiding \$230,000 in disposal costs.
- A partnership with the State of Georgia to initiate a carpooling program on the Base, in which more than 1,000 trips were logged, saving a collective \$17,000 for employees in fuel costs, as well as reducing unnecessary automobile pollution.

The EMS includes a compliance evaluation program that records and tracks all findings from inspections and assessments in a web-based Environmental Findings Database. By consolidating all findings into a single system, the data can be easily analyzed to detect trends and identify systemic root causes.

Environmental Management Systems – Civilian

U.S. Postal Service

Washington, DC
Environmental Performance Track Initiative Team
Environmental Performance Track Initiative

During the last year, the U.S. Postal Service updated and completed full implementation of its EMS for 25 plants, 23 vehicle maintenance facilities (VMF), and 5 large Post Offices in the 8 districts of the Northeast Area and 2 districts within the Western Area. These districts employ more than 78,000 people, span more than 260,000 square miles, and deliver mail to 27.5 million Americans.

Their EMS was started in 1994, making it one of the Federal government's earliest implemented programs.

A critical element of their EMS is the application of standardized protocols for handling every significant environmental aspect associated with their facilities. With the same EMS protocols at each facility across the nation, the USPS is able to significantly reduce training costs.

The combined recycling and pollution programs in the Northeast and Western Areas have resulted in more than \$2 million from avoided landfill disposal costs and more than \$1 million in savings from recycling of undeliverable mail, cardboard, plastic, and metals.

Recycling – Civilian

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Washington, DC

Recycling Team

Recycling Leadership in the Transportation Sector

The Federal Highway Administration promotes recycling as an integral part of road construction, and leads by example in the industry through its research, educational, and promotional efforts.

As a result of the Federal Highway Administration's stewardship, approximately 80 percent of the 200 million tons of old roadways are processed and reused in future highway construction projects. To put this in perspective, the amount of municipal solid waste recycled yearly, including cans, bottles, and newspapers is less than half that amount.

These green road recycling practices have led to the prevention of almost 2 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Finally, partnering with the EPA, the Federal Highway Administration sponsored a Green Highways Partnership workshop to forge cooperation between state environmental and transportation agencies. As a result their leadership, states in the Mid-Atlantic region have committed to using recycled and environmentally-friendly materials for their roadways.

Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation – Military

U.S. Marine Corps
Camp Pendleton, CA
Southwest Region Fleet Transportation Team
Deploying Alternative Fueled Vehicles

The Southwest Region Fleet Transportation Team is a regional organization comprised of Garrison Mobile Equipment fleets located at seven Marine Corps installations in California. The Fleet Managers at each of these locations consist of a team that has proven their dedication to the reduction of oil-based fuel usage.

Along with their impressive fleet of more than 1,200 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), the Fleet Transportation Team employs a host of other products and management techniques to increase vehicle efficiency.

Their use of biodiesel cut their consumption of petroleum diesel by 20 percent. The Team also uses on-board wireless location and performance monitoring devices, which collect information about engine performance, speed, and location of the vehicles. This ensures that the engine is consuming fuel efficiently and as cleanly as possible. These GPS devices also allow managers to reduce the number of unnecessary trips and improve route planning, as well as reduce the amount of air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels.

In addition, Camp Pendleton is currently finishing the construction of a hydrogen fuel station, which will be available for use by civilians, as well as the government, in the near future.

Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation – Civilian

Department of Energy
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN
Fuel Efficiency and Transportation Initiatives Team
Green Transportation Initiative

Through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's green transportation initiative, the Fuel Efficiency and Transportation Initiatives Team has increased the use of biobased materials and specifically alternative fuel, reduced reliance on petroleum-based materials, reduced tail pipe emissions, and provided personnel with safer, more cost-effective transportation options.

The Laboratory's campus is designed to minimize the use of automobiles for on-campus travel and promote the use of bicycles. For employees commuting to and from work, the Laboratory provides an excellent interactive website for the facilitation of carpools.

The Team continues to expand its fleet of flex-fuel vehicles, which now numbers more than 100 vehicles. The facility has an on-site E-85 fuel tank, whose usage continues to increase each year.

Waste/Pollution Prevention – Military

U.S. Air Force

Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA
Materials Diversion Center Team
Moving Mountains of Waste

Vandenberg AFB demonstrates that it is possible to move mountains — that is, mountains of solid waste that would normally end up in the landfill — and turn them into useful materials for other users and purposes. This past year, their stellar efforts resulted in a cost avoidance of \$4.3 million through waste stream reuse and \$5.9 million in reduced contractor services.

Recently, the AFB was charged with removing a decommissioned rail line running through the base. During this project, more than 1,200 tons of railroad ties and nearly 750 tons of rails were reused by other entities, saving an estimated \$823,000 in demolition costs and diverting these reusable materials from the landfill.

Another notable initiative was the recycling of more than 1,800 tons of metal, 9,500 tons of concrete, and 30 tons of wood from structures and facilities from a deactivated missile program on the base. This effort resulted in savings of more than \$1.3 million for the Air Force and American taxpayers.

Waste/Pollution Prevention – Civilian

U.S. Postal Service

Washington, DC
Reuse of Mailing Products Team
Vendor Partnerships for Envelope Reuse

In 2007, the United States Postal Service successfully implemented a program for the reuse and recycling of mailing products by forming partnerships with its customers, vendors, and business partners.

Among the many notable aspects of the program, the Postal Service worked with two national supply companies to encourage the use of reusable mailing materials, including courtesy and reply envelopes. With outbound reply mail approaching 90 billion pieces in 2007, this effort to reduce unnecessary paper usage is certainly commendable. For every billion reply envelopes eliminated, more than 1,000 acres of forest and 15 million gallons of fuel are conserved!

The Postal Service also worked in partnership with a national company in an effort to recycle and reuse discarded newspaper, magazines, and general mail. By diverting this paper from the waste stream, approximately 2.2 million cubic yards of landfill space is saved each year.

Green Purchasing – Military

Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency

Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia, PA

Subsistence Biobased Cutlery Team

Biobased Cutlery Program

For nearly a decade, the Defense Supply Center -- Philadelphia has placed a major emphasis on introducing biobased food utensils in the Department of Defense supply chain.

After extensive research and development that spanned several years, Defense Supply Center -- Philadelphia overcame numerous financial and bureaucratic obstacles to initiate a full-scale biobased utensil acquisition program last year.

DSCP's biobased procurement for these items has totaled almost \$2.5 million from March 2007 to January 2008. These green products have replaced their conventional counterparts and now reach thousands of military service members around the world each month.

Green Purchasing – Civilian

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC

Purchasing-BioPreferred Team

Leading USDA Green Purchasing through Bi-Preferred implementation

USDA's Purchasing - BioPreferred Team led by example this past year by securing green services and products and by institutionalizing this process through rules, regulations, guidelines and outreach programs. These efforts were operated through the Department's Sustainable Operations Council, which was established by Assistant Secretary Boyd Rutherford after the passage of Executive Order 13423.

The Department recently updated its Acquisition Regulation to require that green products were used in all contracts over \$5 million and is currently establishing a Track and Report system for green products to support their plans to dramatically increase green purchasing in the next half decade.

In early Fiscal Year 2007, USDA developed a new brand identity, BioPreferredSM, and a comprehensive marketing strategy to reach Federal buyers.

Demonstrating its green purchasing efforts, the USDA awarded a blanket purchase agreement for remanufactured toner cartridges to a service-disabled veteran-owned small business exclusively for the use of the 2400 Service Centers throughout the country. Over \$20 savings per cartridge has saved these Centers alone more than half a million dollars.

Electronics Stewardship – Civilian

Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration

Washington, DC
Electronics Stewardship Team
Electronics Stewardship at TSA

TSA's Electronics Stewardship Team used the Federal Electronics Challenge as its guide to develop its program in 2005. Since that time, the team has greatly improved TSA's practices used in the acquisition and procurement, operations and maintenance, and the disposition of electronics.

Demonstrating its commitment to stewardship, TSA chose to participate as a Gold-level partner in the FEC this past year. They have ensured that all computers, monitors, and laptops procured were EPEAT-registered and additionally have procured environmentally preferable printers, copiers, and fax machines. Working with computer manufacturers, they ensured that all computers and electronic components are either reused or recycled during the agency's refresh projects.

Along with the promotion of other educational tools, the Stakeholders Team developed literature for all employees detailing best management practices for computers and peripherals, including the procurement and disposition of electronics. The Agency has also mentored fellow Department of Homeland Security components to help improve their own electronic stewardship programs.

It is not surprising that the TSA was recently recognized for its electronics stewardship efforts, receiving an agency-wide 2007 EPEAT Silver Award.

Sustainable Design/Green Buildings – Military

U.S. Army
Fort Bragg, NC
Sustainable Community Team
Sustainable Design through LEED

Fort Bragg's **Sustainable Community Team - Facilities** has made remarkable strides towards sustainability through its successful efforts to integrate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards in the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of installation infrastructure. Fort Bragg's innovative advancements are made even more noteworthy by the fact that, with a military population of more than 52,000 soldiers and growing, it is also the largest Army installation in the United States.

As of June of last year, Fort Bragg remained the only military installation that had both a LEED program for existing buildings as well as new construction. The first phase of Fort Bragg's existing buildings program includes 43 buildings encompassing more than 5.2 million square feet and is the second largest contributor of square footage to the U.S. LEED-Existing Buildings program in the *entire* U.S. Green Building Council inventory.

This past year, Fort Bragg registered 43 buildings in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Portfolio Program. This unique pilot program greatly reduced registration and certification costs by about 40 percent - from around \$116,000 to an estimated \$69,000. Fort Bragg is the first – and, currently, the only – DOD entity to participate in the LEED-EB Portfolio Program.

Performance targets set by the Sustainable Fort Bragg team call for the installation to meet at least LEED Silver standards by fiscal year 2012, Gold by fiscal year 2017 and Platinum by fiscal year 2020 for 100 percent of all new MILCON construction. These targets affect an estimated 20 million square feet of proposed and existing infrastructure.

Sustainable Design/Green Buildings – Civilian

General Services Administration
New San Francisco Federal Building, CA
SFFB Project Team
A Model of Sustainable Architecture

The new and innovative San Francisco Federal Building was completed in February 2007 and has rightfully been lauded by the Federal government, industry leaders, NGOs, and professional organizations as being a model for sustainable buildings. The building houses 1,500 employees from various Federal agencies throughout its 523,000 rentable square feet of space.

The building was designed to consume one-third of the energy of a typical California office building, approximately 30,000 BTUs per square foot per year. The total estimated utility-bill savings to the government as a result is approximately \$500,000 per year.

Much of the energy savings is a result of an innovating sunscreen wrapping around the south façade of the building. This screen regulates the amount of direct sunlight entering the building, absorbing much of the solar energy that would typically enter the building. This solar energy fuels a passive heat pump that helps to cool the building throughout the year. Additionally, the screen helps to modulate light inside the office space, which minimizes the use of traditional electric lighting.

If the building performs as designed, it will save enough energy - 6.9 million kilowatt hours – to power 600 homes or take 830 cars off the road for one year. In other terms, it will prevent the potential release of more than 8,100 tons of greenhouse gases each year.

Sowing the Seeds for Change

Federal Environmental Management Systems Metrics Workgroup

Washington, DC

Taking Aggressive Actions_Achieving Impressive Results

The Federal EMS Metrics Workgroup is a collaborative effort among a core group of Federal agencies serving as the main proponent for measuring EMS implementation across the Federal community.

This workgroup established innovative and challenging metrics for measuring and rating EMS implementation while giving agencies a voice in the process. For example, in response to agency concerns, the workgroup proposed that EMS metrics remain unchanged for 3 years to create stability, ensure efficiency, and maintain a stewardship focus. This change also allows agencies and the Federal government to monitor trends over time.

The Federal EMS Workgroup also developed a government-wide EMS reporting standard, greatly reducing the workload for facilities and agencies without forgoing valuable data collection. Rather than taking weeks, their reports can now be completed in a matter of hours or days. Such reports also make the review process more efficient and provide a consistent overall view of EMS implementation across the Federal government.

The EMS electronic reporting module developed by the Workgroup serves an excellent model for other environmental, energy, and transportation elements to begin similar reporting.

Department of Labor

Washington, DC

Data Management and Information Analysis Team
New Automotive Use Tracking On-line System (AUTOS)

This past year, DOL's Data Management and Information Analysis Team created a ground-breaking online automated fleet system to assist with data collection on their agency's fleet. This system ensures that the Dept of Labor targets its resources effectively by identifying unnecessary or underutilized vehicles in use by the agency.

DOL system users have access to real-time delivery of fleet inventory, costs, fuel utilization, and accident detail information that was previously unavailable. Such information significantly cuts down on the staff hours needed to complete vehicle reports and responding to inquiries.

Because of their innovation and commitment to environmental stewardship, the DOL went from being Red to Green in all areas of the OMB's Transportation Score Card, and was one of only two agencies to do so.