

## **Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy Office - Interagency Sustainable Working Group (ISWG)**

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**Award Category:** Waste/Pollution Prevention

### **Nomination Abstract:**

DOE established ISWG to promote sustainable design in the Federal sector; the group operates under the existing Interagency Energy Management Task Force. The task force and ISWG are coordinated by DOE's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ISWG is to:

- Serve as a Federal forum to exchange information on individual agency sustainable design activities.
- Foster and encourage each agency to consider the adoption of sustainable design practices and technologies in new Federally owned, operated, and leased buildings as well as major renovations of existing Federal facilities.
- Identify and propose solutions to barriers for adoption of sustainable design in the Federal sector.

### **Nomination Description:**

ISWG was established in September 2001, in response to *Executive Order 13123 – Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management*. The order states:

Part 4 – Promoting Federal Leadership in Energy Management, Sec. 403. Energy Management Strategies and Tools, (d) Sustainable Design DOD and GSA, in consultation with DOE and EPA, shall develop sustainable design principles. Agencies shall apply such principles to the siting, design, and construction of new facilities. Agencies shall optimize life-cycle costs, pollution, and other environmental and energy costs associated with the construction, life-cycle operation, and decommissioning of the facility. Agencies shall consider using Energy Savings Performance Contracts or utility energy-efficiency service contracts to aid them in constructing sustainably designed buildings.

ISWG is chaired by FEMP and includes approximately 40 – 50 “active” members (total membership is approximately 300 officials) representing 17 Federal agencies. ISWG meets six times a year on a bi-monthly basis in Washington, DC; the current membership includes the following Federal organizations:

Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Interior, Department of State, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bonneville Power Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, General Accounting Office, General Services Administration, Office of Environmental Executive, Office of Management and Budget, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Postal Service, White House Task Force on Recycling.

The working group welcomes the participation of any other Federal department or agency.

### Accomplishments

Provided below is a brief summary of ISWG's accomplishments to date.

**Interagency Networking** ISWG's Intranet web site was established to provide a data-sensitive site for agencies to post draft information (e.g., sustainable guidance, policy statements) for member review and comment. Bi-monthly meeting reports summarize presentations and provide a listing of future Federal and non-Federal conferences, workshops, and training programs dealing with sustainable design and related topics. Roundtable announcements of agency-wide sustainable design success stories, projects, policies, and events are discussed at the bi-monthly meetings. Agency-wide accomplishments are summarized, monitored, and disseminated to ISWG members.

**Evaluation Activities** ISWG initiates and participates in the review and evaluation of reports and programs dealing with sustainable design. Accomplishments to date include:

- Developed DOE Checklist of Opportunities to Upgrade Energy Efficiency with Building Security
- Reviewed/commented on U.S. Green Building Council report on high-performance green buildings
- Reviewed/commented on ASHRAE's plans to promote sustainability
- Reviewed/commented on Section 55 of OMB Circular A-11
- Reviewed/commented on Office of the Federal Environmental Executive's (OFEE) green buildings report
- Reviewed/commented on OFEE white papers: Implement Policy, Measure Performance, Research and Development, Life Cycle Costs of Sustainable Buildings, and Education and Training
- Reviewed/commented on FEMP paper for November 2004 U.S. Green Building Council Greenbuild Expo, titled *Federal Participation in LEED* by Christopher Payne, LBNL and Beverly Dyer, FEMP.

- Reviewed/commented on FEMP paper for November 2005 U.S. Green Building Council Greenbuild Expo, titled *Federal Participation in LEED 2005* by Christopher Payne and Beverly Dyer.

**Presentations** Conduct bi-monthly ISWG meetings that include open discussion and presentations by Federal and private sector officials involved in activities related to sustainable design. Many presenters are nationally recognized and presentations cover a wide range of topics on Federal programs, national laboratories activities, and private sector services.

**Site Visits** ISWG gains first-hand insight on current and innovative sustainable design practices by touring facilities. To date, members have toured the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's green building in, the U.S. Naval Academy campus; the National Building Museum's "Big and Green" exhibit on sustainable architecture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Pentagon Renovation Program Facilities, the Department of Agriculture's green roof technology pilot project, and the Fish and Wildlife National Conservation Training Center.

**Research and Analysis** To date, ISWG research and analytical activities include 1) Prioritizing Energy Requirements for Implementation as Sustainable Design Features in Federal Agencies, 2) Development of a Business Case for Sustainable Design, 3) Development of cost and performance metrics, 4) Conceptualization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Federal Leadership in High-Performance Buildings, 5) Development of High-Performance Buildings Database, 6) Incorporation of sustainable design language in OMB A-11, and 7) sponsorship of the Creating Sustainable Federal Buildings Workshop. ISWG has conducted surveys to collect data on the square footage of Federal facilities, by agency; compiled data on Federal sustainable projects in the National Capital Region, and collected information on Federal green building case studies. Future plans include developing a technical guidance document to accompany the above-mentioned MOU.

### Conclusion

ISWG plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable design in Federal facilities and supports Federal partners by providing educational tools, targeting barriers hindering successful Federal sustainable design building projects, and providing Federal partners with internal evaluation and review support. ISWG will continue to champion sustainable design in Federal facilities by supporting the White House Federal Sustainability Summit in January 2006, help Federal partners implement the Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings MOU, and continue to support *EPACT 2005* requirements.