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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

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Washington, DC
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TO: Subcabinet Officials
Agency Heads

FROM: Boyd K. Rutherford
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

SUBJECT: USDA Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan

One of the goals of Executive Order (EO) 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management," is to ensure that new construction and major renovations of Federal buildings are accomplished in a manner consistent with sustainable building practices. The EO requires each Department to develop and implement a sustainable building plan. The attached USDA Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan (SBIP), dated August 13, 2007, outlines the steps USDA intends to take to comply with the sustainable buildings requirements of the EO. As the senior USDA officer responsible for implementing EO 13423 within USDA, I approved and transmitted the SBIP to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). USDA's progress in implementing the SBIP will be measured by a performance metric on the OMB Environmental Stewardship Scorecard.

The SBIP addresses how USDA will ensure all new facilities and major renovation projects within the Department implement sustainable practices in the design, construction, leasing, operation, and maintenance of buildings. The SBIP also delineates the steps that USDA and its agencies will take to ensure that a minimum of 15 percent of the Department's existing capital asset building inventory (as of the end of fiscal year 2015) incorporates the sustainable design practices outlined in the High Performance Buildings Guiding Principles referenced in EO 13423. These Guiding Principles include employment of integrating design principles, optimization of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, protection and conservation of water, enhancement of indoor environmental quality, and reduction of environmental impacts of materials.

As USDA executes the SBIP, we can expect results that range from reduced life-cycle costs of facilities to improved energy efficiency to enhanced safety, health and productivity of USDA employees. The SBIP is not intended to replace any existing policy but to augment such established policies using new metrics and reporting criteria, in accordance with EO 13423. The SBIP will be incorporated as an appendix in the USDA Asset Management Plan required by EO 13327, "Federal Real Property Asset Management," and will be updated annually.

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I request your support in implementing the SBIP throughout your agency's building inventory and emphasizing to your employees the importance of integrating sustainable practices into the design, construction, operation and maintenance of buildings. The SBIP is available on the USDA Sustainable Operations website at: <http://www.greening.usda.gov/>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the SBIP or have your staff contact Charles Johnson of the Office of Procurement and Property Management at (202) 720-2941 with inquiries.

Attachment

cc: USDA Sustainable Operations Council