

## MCC: Matching a Commitment to Conservation Abroad with Compliance and Innovation at Headquarters

Recent legislation, including the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of February 2009, and the Energy Independence and Security Act of December 2007, highlight the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts across the U.S. domestic economy and, in particular, within the federal government – which by many reports is the world's largest energy consumer.

MCC believes that energy and resource conservation reflect its core values and commitment to sustainability. Even though the provisions referenced in the legislation do not generally apply to MCC because the agency headquarters is not in a federally-owned building, the agency is committed to principles laid out in the legislation and has completed an initial audit of its headquarter operations to assess energy and resource consumption and identify opportunities to improve its environmental performance in a manner consistent with the tenor and substance of these laws.

### MCC Headquarters Conservation Plan

In undertaking near-term opportunities for improvements in this area, MCC has already taken steps to reduce the impact of its headquarters operations on the environment. MCC paper now contains 100% post-consumer recycled content and MCC is pursuing strategies that will significantly reduce its paper consumption. The organization is now eliminating most non-biodegradable food service items (cups, plates, plastic ware). While much of MCC's space already has motion sensors to automatically turn off lights when no one is around, MCC will make further investments to complete the installation of additional sensors, where needed, in its Washington offices. In addition, MCC is educating staff on the need to turn off lights and change energy use behaviors so that the organization can contribute to reducing costs and minimizing impacts on the environment from its energy consumption.

Going forward, MCC is committed to systematically addressing energy, travel and overall consumption impacts on the environment. The organization is working to create incentives to reduce costs, energy and resource consumption, and looking at commuting and alternatives to travel, where appropriate, to address its carbon footprint. Building on these efforts, MCC has already begun working to engage on our longer-term goals, including off-setting carbon emissions, practicing green procurement and enhancing recycling efforts.

These efforts are consistent with MCC's core commitment to sustainability and will align MCC headquarter operations with the Obama administration's efforts to increase energy efficiency and conservation within the federal bureaucracy.