

Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan Release

As required by Executive Order (EO) 13514, DOE's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) was released late last week. DOE employees and contractors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Plan, now available at: http://www.energy.gov/media/DOE_Sustainability_Plan_2010.PDF

The Federal government is the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. economy. In EO 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance, President Obama calls on federal agencies to set a shining example on sustainability for the rest of the nation by improving our environmental, energy and economic performance - and achieving targeted reductions in our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions - by 2020.

For several years DOE has worked diligently to manage its operations and facilities ever more sustainably with considerable success. Now, DOE will build on its progress and work to achieve reductions in GHG emissions while improving energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and sustainable acquisition.

DOE's strategy for success includes: instituting wholesale cultural change to factor sustainability and GHG emission reductions into all DOE corporate management decisions; planning, executing, evaluating, and continually improving DOE operations to maximize sustainable use of energy and natural resources; developing cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; improving the performance of existing DOE building stock; using low-GHG emitting energy sources to replace existing grid energy; and preventing pollution and eliminating waste.

In the first year of executing the SSPP, we will focus on further integrating sustainability planning into DOE's programming and budget development process; addressing policy, procedural and operational challenges that limit our ability to reduce water, energy, and fuel use and waste; and leveraging our corporate culture to emphasize sound environmental stewardship over the long term.

DOE embraces the challenge of EO 13514 as an opportunity to promote sustainable operations and address the crisis of climate change. As Secretary Chu has said, "With a serious commitment to energy efficiency, widespread deployment of technologies we have, and an aggressive investment in science, we can dramatically reduce our carbon emissions and reinvigorate our economy at the same time. This is not only our opportunity; it is our responsibility to future generations."

Questions or comments regarding the SSPP may be sent to

Richard Kidd, Program Manager of the Federal Energy
Management Program at Richard.Kidd@ee.doe.gov