

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

DOE HQ Celebrates Earth Day 2013

DOE headquarters is celebrating Earth Day 2013 (April 22) with a full week of festivities. Events will be held April 22-25 at the Forrestal building and April 29-May 2 at the Germantown building.



Activities include a photo contest, an environmental film series, a showcase of alternative fuel vehicles, and displays from green exhibitors. For more information and a list of events, visit DOE Earth Week's Powerpedia page at [https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Virtual Celebration: Earth Week 2013](https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Virtual_Celebration:_Earth_Week_2013).

GSA Case Study "Redesigns the Federal Workplace for the 21st Century"

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions recently published a case study detailing GSA's Prototype Alternative Workplace pilot, which created a flexible workplace at GSA headquarters while saving energy and improving employee satisfaction. The program began with twice daily audits of workspaces and found that average utilization was only 45 percent. GSA concluded that overall floor space for this 170 employee pilot office could be reduced by approximately 50 percent by adding "touchdown" work spaces, open seating, and additional small conference rooms. GSA also distributed laptops and improved cloud computing capabilities to match digital flexibility with the new flexible physical environment.

GSA found that the payback period for the renovations could be less than two years due to a reduction in required floor space. GSA also improved employee satisfaction by ensuring feedback was considered, increasing amenities (e.g. new kitchen and lounge), and improving flexibility through telework.

To view the case study, visit <http://www.c2es.org/docUploads/federal-sustainability-ict-gsa-prototype-workspace.pdf>.

DOE is also mobile. The [Mobile Work Center \(MWC\)](#) at DOE Headquarters Forrestal building facilitates a remote workforce and reduces office space requirements while lending support to [telework](#) participation. The MWC allows increased flexibility, sustainability, individual continuity and individual performance for [DOE](#) employees and contractors.

SUSTAINABILITY TIPS

Improve Your Cooling System before the Summer Heat

The beginning of spring serves as a good time to review operations and maintenance of your cooling systems before high temperatures set in. FEMP offers a brief tutorial on opportunities to reduce cooling costs by improving system efficiency and reducing leaks. http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/om_cooling.pdf

SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTARS



Glenn Sonntag (left) and Steve Woodbury (right) are moving on from DOE.

Glenn is leaving the Federal government after service in the U.S. Coast Guard and at DOE. At DOE, Glenn served in the Bioenergy Technologies Office and most recently in the Sustainability Performance Office, where he was the Department's lead for climate change adaptation coordination.

Steve is retiring after 38 years of Federal service, and most recently worked to maintain and improve Environmental Management Systems across the Department.

Thanks for your Federal service and best of luck in future endeavors.

Send us your champion!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MILESTONES



(Click to view SPO Calendar) ↑

Courses, Webinars, and Events

Apr 9: FEMP [Federal Energy and Water Management Awards Criteria Briefing](#)

Apr. 17: EFCOG/SPO Monthly Teleconference: [Sustainable Acquisition](#)

Apr. 22: Earth Day

ON-DEMAND TRAINING

Certifications

[GSA-Sponsored LEED Training Certification for Federal Employees](#)

Financing

[ESPCs for Small Sites](#)

[UESCs and Energy Project Funds](#)

Buildings

[Commissioning for Federal Facilities](#)

[Operations, Maintenance, and Commissioning](#)

[Implementing Deep Retrofits](#)

Water

[Water Efficiency Planning and Implementation](#)

Data Centers

[Data Center Efficiency to ASHRAE Thermal Guidelines](#)

[Labs, Data Centers and High-Tech Facilities](#)

Greenhouse Gas Reporting

[Federal GHG Accounting and Reporting](#)

Sustainable Acquisition

[Energy-Efficient Product Procurement](#)

SUCCESS STORIES

PPPL Wins EPA WasteWise Award

EPA's WasteWise program named the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) as its 2012 Federal Partner of the Year for reductions in waste and carbon footprint. PPPL reduced waste by recycling 2,000 tons of metal from old motor generators used to power early experiments at the lab. PPPL also implemented requirements for its food service provider to use only reusable or compostable materials.



PPPL's now recycled C-Site motor generators

For more information, visit: <http://www.pppl.gov/news/2013/03/pppl-earns-top-epa-award>.

NREL Staff Assists Electric Vehicle Charging Research

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) launched an electric vehicle charging program for staff owned vehicles to study charging technology and habits. The 18 double-pedestal, Level II solar powered charging stations were installed in February 2012 and accommodate most commercially available plug-in passenger vehicles. More than 15 NREL staff members have signed up for the research program which monitors energy use and collects data that will enable the development of valuable load evaluation and prediction models.

For more information on NREL's EV charging research program, contact Lissa Myers at lissa.myers@NREL.gov.

ORNL Issues Vehicle Idling Best Practices

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) researchers and fleet managers issued a guide on best practices for idling to improve vehicles operations at the site. The guide dispels myths about idling that will help improve vehicle fuel economy and reduce tailpipe emissions. A few notable highlights include:

- Engines in newer light duty vehicles do not need to be idled to warm up before driving, while heavy duty engines do not require more than 3-5 minutes to warm up.
- Idling a light duty vehicle for more than 10 seconds costs more than turning the vehicle off then back on.
- Idling a light duty vehicle for more than 30 seconds is considered excessive, while a heavy duty vehicle can idle for 5-15 minutes before being considered excessive.



Signs will be placed across the ORNL campus to remind drivers of these practices.

To read the guide, visit: <http://sustainability-ornl.org/documents/ORNL%20Idle%20Reduction%20Guide.pdf>.



FY 2013 DOE Sustainability Awards — The FY 2013 DOE Sustainability Awards will be held in the fall of 2013. Event details and the nomination process are currently being finalized. Stayed tuned for more information!

For information on past winners, visit: www.sustainability.energy.gov/awards.