

## **Executive Order On Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance**

Demonstrating a commitment to lead by example, President Obama signed an Executive Order on October 5, 2009 that sets sustainability performance goals for Federal agencies. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to: set a 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target within 90 days; increase energy efficiency; reduce fleet petroleum consumption; conserve water; reduce waste; support sustainable communities; and leverage Federal purchasing power to promote environmentally-responsible products and technologies.

### **Federal Government's Role**

- The Federal government is the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. economy. Its size and scale makes Federal operations an effective policy tool to move the country toward a clean energy economy. The Federal government occupies nearly 500,000 buildings, operates more than 600,000 vehicles, employs more than 1.8 million civilians, and purchases more than \$500 billion per year in goods and services.
- Federal agencies are currently operating under a variety of statutory requirements related to energy and water efficiency, green purchasing, and sustainable building practices, all of which are established in legislation (Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) and the codification of the prior Administration's Executive Order 13423<sup>1</sup>.

### **Leading By Example**

- Today's Executive Order builds on and expands the energy reduction and environmental requirements of Executive Order 13423 by making reductions of greenhouse gas emissions a priority of the Federal government, and by requiring agencies to develop sustainability plans focused on cost-effective projects and programs.
- Implementation of this Executive Order will build on Recovery Act investments to improve energy and environmental performance in Federal agencies. Projected benefits to the taxpayer include substantial energy savings and avoided costs from improved efficiency.

---

<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 13423, signed on January 24, 2007 stated that it is the policy of the United States that Federal agencies conduct their environmental, transportation, and energy-related activities in an environmentally, fiscally sound, and sustainable manner. It directed the agencies to, among other things: (i) reduce energy use by 3% annually through the end of FY 2015, or 30% by the end of FY 2015; (ii) reduce water consumption by 2% annually through the end of FY 2015 or 16 percent by FY 2015; and (iii) reduce fleet vehicle petroleum consumption by 2% annually through the end of FY 2015. It directed the agencies to implement sustainable practices for (i) energy efficiency, (ii) pollution and waste prevention and recycling, (iii) reduction of use of toxic or hazardous chemicals, (iv) building performance, and (v) electronics stewardship. It acknowledged greenhouse gas emissions reductions associated with energy reductions but did not establish reducing greenhouse gases as an explicit goal. EO 13423 also directed each agency to designate a senior official to be responsible for implementation of the order.

- The Executive Order was developed by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, with input from the Federal agencies that are represented on the Steering Committee established by Executive Order 13423.
- The new Executive Order requires agencies to measure, manage, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions toward agency-defined targets. It describes a process by which agency goals will be set and reported to the President by the Chair of CEQ.
- The Executive Order also requires agencies to meet a number of energy, water, and waste reduction targets, including:
  - 30% reduction in vehicle fleet petroleum use by 2020;
  - 26% improvement in water efficiency by 2020;
  - 50% recycling and waste diversion by 2015;
  - 95% of all applicable contracts will meet sustainability requirements;
  - Implementation of the 2030 net-zero-energy building requirement;
  - Implementation of the stormwater provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, section 438; and
  - Development of guidance for sustainable Federal building locations in alignment with the Livability Principles put forward by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Implementation**

- Implementation of the Executive Order will focus on integrating achievement of sustainability goals with agency mission and strategic planning to optimize performance and minimize implementation costs.
- Each agency will develop and carry out an integrated Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan that prioritizes the agency's actions toward the goals of the Executive Order based on lifecycle return on investments.
- Implementation will be managed through the previously-established Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, working in close partnership with OMB and the agencies.