

Energizing EPA

Office of Administration and Resources Management's Newsletter on Energy Conservation and Sustainable Facilities

June 2003



Pollution prevention—it's not just part of EPA's mission, but it's something we practice every day as EPA employees. This issue highlights some of the Agency's pollution prevention efforts in action—from our newest sustainable lab facility in Kansas City, to a revamped Headquarters recycling program, to Agency-wide green purchasing goals.



A Window to the Future of Lab Design

EPA opened a new Science & Technology Center in Kansas City, Kansas, May 9, 2003, with an eye on the gold—that is, a Gold Level rating for energy, resource, and water efficiency from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) program.

LEED™ is a green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage design and construction practices that significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment and occupants. EPA's Kansas City Science & Technology Center (KCSTC) will be applying for what it hopes will be a Gold Level certification, the second highest rating in the LEED™ program. Since most laboratories use more energy and water per square foot than typical office buildings, this presented a unique sustainable design challenge to KCSTC planners.

"With the design of this new facility, we wanted to preserve natural resources, ensure occupancy health, and serve as a model for future lab design," said Cathy Berlow, an architect with EPA's Sustainable Facilities Practices Branch.

Located on a brownfield redevelopment site, KCSTC is one of 10 EPA regional laboratories that provide monitoring, analytical support, and data assessments. "This facility is furnished with the latest equipment and technology to make it a state-of-the-art, world class lab for environmental testing, research, and analysis," said EPA Administrator Christine Whitman.

The 72,100 square foot facility incorporates



From left to right: Rev. Frank Horvat, St. John the Baptist Church; Morris X. Winn, AA for Office of Administration & Resources Management, EPA; Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator, EPA; James E. Guilliford, Regional Administrator, EPA; Bradley M. Scott, Regional Administrator, GSA; Kansas City Mayor Carol Marinovich.

numerous sustainable features, but one of the most notable is the rooftop rainwater recapture system, which directs water from a portion of the roof into a holding tank. It will collect approximately 763,000 gallons of water per year, which will be used for toilet flushing, cooling tower make-up, and landscape irrigation. Additional sustainable characteristics include:

- **Energy efficiency**—The building was sited to maximize energy efficiency and daylighting and included low-e window glass, occupancy sensors, and technologically advanced mechanical control systems.
- **Water conservation**—Low-flow plumbing fixtures, the rooftop rainwater recapture system, and native landscaping all reduce water use.

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KCSTC is not the first EPA facility to seek a LEED™ Gold Rating—the New England Regional Laboratory in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, was recently certified as LEED™ Gold for its myriad sustainable design features. EPA's National Computer Center in North Carolina has also applied for a LEED™ Silver Rating. (See August 2002 issue.)



Bin There, Done That?

EPA Headquarters Revamps Recycling Program

When EPA Headquarters completed the move of more than 4,000 employees from its Waterside Mall location to its Federal Triangle campus last year, a few “igloos” were left behind—recycling containers, that is. The igloo containers at Waterside Mall had become a symbol of the successful employee recycling program there. Moving from a single building occupied solely by EPA employees to a campus shared by several federal agencies, however, has brought challenges to EPA’s recycling efforts.

While recycling has been available at all 15 EPA Headquarters locations, employees have had to become acquainted with new procedures. Each building that EPA occupies in the Federal Triangle, for example, has slightly different logistics for collection, storage, and transfer of recyclables. After analyzing recycling practices at all 15 Headquarters facilities, EPA determined that greater uniformity was needed and is working with the General Services Administration (GSA) and EPA building managers to make the program as consistent as possible across all locations.

“We hope to set a new standard for EPA-wide and federal agency recycling,” said OARM Assistant Administrator Morris X. Winn. “We’re trying to do our part to meet EPA’s Resource Conservation Challenge goal of a 35 percent national recycling rate by 2005.”

The new plan will be implemented building by building over a period of several months, starting in June 2003. Using the slogan

“Bin There, Done That?” the program is encouraging employees to put their recyclables in the correct bins and keep recycling containers free of contaminants.

“The key to a successful recycling program is the active involvement of all 8,000 Headquarters employees,” Mr. Winn said. “Our goal is to make participation as simple and second nature as possible.”

Initially, the revamped program will focus on mixed office paper, newspaper (separate from other paper), aluminum and metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, and corrugated cardboard. Once all 15 Headquarters facilities have implemented the program, EPA will study the feasibility of adding fluorescent lamps, laser toner cartridges, batteries, and food composting. For more information, contact Gail Wray at <wray.gail@epa.gov>.



EPA Sets Pollution Prevention and Purchasing Goals

Because the federal government is the largest consumer of goods and services in the United States, Executive Order 13101 mandates that federal agencies buy products or services that “have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products.” To help meet this order, EPA announced Agency-wide “green purchasing” and pollution prevention goals on Earth Day, April 22, 2003.

The goals lay out an aggressive path for EPA to follow in buying environmentally preferable products and services and reducing the Agency’s environmental footprint. By 2005 and 2010, the Agency has set concrete goals to:

- Increase and promote recycling.
- Reduce materials entering EPA’s waste stream.
- Promote and achieve increased and preferential use of recycled-content materials.
- Emphasize and increase the purchase and use of environmentally preferable products.

Work is already underway to meet the goals, which cover 10 product and service areas. For example, EPA already purchases renewable power at five of its facilities, and it is aiming to add at least one new facility each year to this list by 2010. To meet its goal of including environmental aspects into all electronics purchases by 2005, EPA and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive have developed the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC). Through FEC—a federal purchasing and end-of-life management challenge—facilities will earn White House recognition for environmentally responsible electronics stewardship. Other goals focus on green buildings, janitorial and maintenance services, copy paper and publications, meetings, office supplies, automotive fleets, landscaping, and recycling and waste prevention.

EPA employees received a copy of the Agency’s green purchasing goals on Earth Day. For more information, or to get involved, contact a team member listed at <www.epa.gov/greeningepa/p2/eppgoals.htm> or <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pilot/13101%20goals.htm>.



“Btu Busters” Honored at B&F Conference

As part of EPA's effort to support employees in integrating energy efficiency and pollution prevention into their traditional facility management responsibilities, six Agency staff received awards during EPA's Buildings and Facilities (B&F) Conference in Gulf Breeze, Florida, February 3-7, 2003.

Presented by Bucky Green, Chief of the Sustainable Facilities Practices Branch (SFPB), these awards represent the first energy achievement awards, scheduled to be given annually at future B&F conferences. Each award was presented in a 100 percent recycled corrugated cardboard frame. The winners are:

- Rick Dreisch, facility manager of the Fort Meade, Maryland, Environmental Science Center (ESC), who has worked at EPA for more than 24 years, received a Btu Buster of the Year Award (FY 2002) for achieving the greatest energy use reduction among all EPA laboratories through a re-commissioning project at ESC.
- Frank Price of the Ada, Oklahoma, Office of Research and Development Laboratory received the Leading Edge Award (2002) for his leadership in implementing Ada's energy savings

performance contract (ESPC).

- Steve Dorer, facility and project manager for the Ann Arbor, Michigan, Office of Air and Radiation Laboratory, has worked at EPA for more than 28 years. Mr. Dorer garnered a Leading Edge Award (2001) for his work on the Ann Arbor ESPC.
- Rich Koch, director, Facilities Management and Services Division, OARM-Cincinnati, and Rhonda Hampton of EPA's Region 5 in Cincinnati received Energy Partner Awards 2002 (Field Staff) for their efforts on Cincinnati's green power purchase and energy master plan.
- Stephanie James has worked at EPA for more than 17 years. Currently in the Office of Administration's Architecture, Engineering, and Real Estate Branch, Ms. James was given an Energy Partner Award (2002) for her work on the Fort Meade, Maryland, re-commissioning and Cincinnati, Ohio, energy master plan projects.

For additional information, contact Bucky Green at <green.bucky@epa.gov> or visit <www.epa.gov/greeningepa/energy/recognition.htm>.

Kansas City Lab

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- **Recycling**—Asphalt paving and many other materials were recycled during construction. Recycled content materials used include insulation, drywall, concrete, metal studs, rebar, steel joists, glass, carpet, ceiling tiles, and ceramic tile flooring.
- **Resource conservation**—Many construction materials were obtained locally or produced, packaged, or transported in a way that reduced energy and material use.
- **Indoor air quality**—Low volatile organic compound adhesives, paints, sealants, glues, caulks, carpets and floor tiles were used, and extra care was taken during construction to avoid airborne contaminants.

For more information on the KCSTC, visit <www.epa.gov/greeningepa/facilities/kansascity-lab.htm> or contact Cathy Berlow at <berlow.cathy@epa.gov>.



Recycling Brings Wray Full Circle

Earlier this year, recycling veteran Gail Wray joined the staff of OARM's Sustainable Facilities Practices Branch as a pollution prevention coordinator. On detail from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), Ms. Wray began working at EPA in the late 1980s. Now she is helping to standardize and implement the revamped Headquarters recycling program and coordinate EPA's efforts to meet recycled product procurement goals of Executive Order 13101, *Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*.

"After 30 years of community and state recycling program development," Wray said, "I thought my expertise could be of service as EPA tackles many of its own recycling and waste reduction programs."

Wray's recycling experience spans several decades, from establishing a newspaper collection/recycling program for a Boy Scout troop in Wisconsin to serving as the Executive Director for Wisconsin's Recycling Market Development Board. She was also the nation's first Federal Environmental Executive, responsible for promoting recycling and recycled product procurement at all federal agencies.

"In a way, I've come full circle," Wray said. "One of my first assignments as an EPA employee was to roll out the recycling program at Waterside Mall. Now I'm leading the charge at the new Headquarters."



Labs21 Conference to Take Denver by Storm

Lab designers, builders, and managers are getting ready for the Laboratories for the 21st Century (Labs21) Annual Conference, October 21–23, 2003, in Denver, Colorado. Sponsored by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, this innovative conference will challenge participants to answer the following questions: Who is designing energy efficient, environmentally sound laboratories for the future? What technologies and techniques are changing the design and construction of the next generation of laboratories? Which industries are leading the way?

Through a series of sessions, workshops, and tours, Labs21 conference participants will discuss new solutions to enhance laboratory design and operational efficiency while maintaining a focus on sustainability. For the second year in a row, the conference will also feature a technology fair with cutting-edge products from laboratory-specific manufacturers.

Last year's conference attracted more than 450 attendees from around the globe, and conference organizers anticipate another successful event this year. "Each year, we assemble a diverse group of speakers and tackle topics from a perspective no one else is considering," said Phil Wirdzek, Labs21 program manager. "Our

audience continues to expand as more laboratory professionals realize the importance of considering sustainability in their work."

The conference will feature many worthwhile events and speeches, including internationally renown architect William McDonough as the keynote speaker. Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a series of tours, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Solar Energy Research Facility, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research's Mesa Laboratory in Boulder.



The Solar Energy Research Facility in Denver, Colorado.

Online registration for the conference will begin on July 1, 2003. Fees are \$275 for early registration (on or before August 1, 2003), and \$300 after August 1, 2003. More information on the conference can be found at <www.epa.gov/labs21century/conf/conf2003/index.htm>.

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