

Text Version for Assistant Secretary of the Navy Jackalyn Pfannenstiel's Biomass 2011 Keynote Video

[The video shows Assistant Secretary Pfannenstiel standing at the podium at the Biomass 2011 Conference, speaking to the audience.]

Assistant Secretary Pfannenstiel: Next year the Navy is going to sail a great green fleet, a carrier strike group, powered largely by biofuels. As with its predecessor, this group of ships and aircraft will showcase the Navy's technological breakthroughs; in this case, moving from fossil to clean energy alternatives—clearly a case of new horizons.

In moving us to a new energy future, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus challenged us to meet five ambitious energy goals. One is sailing the great green fleet in local operations by next year and deploying it worldwide by 2016. The others are no later than 2020, providing at least half of the department's total energy requirements, afloat and ashore, from non-fossil fuel sources. Also by that same year, helping at least half of our installations to become net-zero energy users; by 2015, reducing by 50% our use of petroleum across our non-tactical fleet, and using energy factors as a decision criteria in evaluating contracts for new systems and buildings. That would change the energy requirements for future platforms.

The remarkable partnership represented here in this opening panel among the Navy, USDA, and DOE has us on a path to purchase the fuels that are going to meet all of these criteria in the timeframe that we've laid out. Like the amazing demonstrations of technological innovation that characterize the great white fleet and moon landing, we have an opportunity now to usher in a new, smarter era of energy. And like those achievements, we will achieve our energy goals—not because they are easy, but because they are hard, and because the vitality of our planet and the defense of our nation depend on our success. Thank you for your attention.