

INTERAGENCY SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

September 22, 2009 Meeting Report

INTRODUCTION

The Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) held its 45th meeting on September 22, 2009. The working group is chaired by Matt Gray of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP). The ISWG is composed of members representing all major Federal departments and a number of independent agencies. This meeting was held at the U.S. Green Building Council's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 2009, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

AGENCY UPDATES

Conference Updates

- *GovEnergy 2009* – Providence, Rhode Island; August 9-12, 2009. Presentations have been posted online at <http://govenergy.com/presentations.php>.
- *GovEnergy 2010* – Dallas, Texas; August 15-18, 2010. GovEnergy is accepting session and topic nominations until October 31, 2009 at: <http://govenergy.com/abstracts.php>.
- *Renewable Energy Working Group* – Department of Energy Headquarters; September 23, 2009. http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/renewable_workinggroup.html
- IFMA and Federal Facilities Council Capitol Hill Forum on Achieving High Performance Federal Buildings – Rayburn building; September 24, 2009.

Upcoming ISWG Meetings

- Possible Federal-only meeting in October. Data and time TBD.
- December 8th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM in conjunction with EcoBuild.

PRESENTATIONS

- *Building Performance Initiative Update* - Tom Hicks, U.S. Green Building Council
- *Green the Capitol, U.S. House of Representatives: Office Greening and Behavioral Change* - Allison Rogers, Summer Montacute, and Sarah Jensen, Greening the Capitol, U.S. House of Representatives
- *Updates on Federal High Performance Sustainable Buildings Checklist for ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager* - Katy Hatcher, Environmental Protection Agency
- *Current Status of ASHRAE Standard 189.1* – Lance Davis, General Services Administration

- *STAR Community Index* - Lynne Barker, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Local Governments for Sustainability

The PowerPoint presentations are available for download on the [ISWG website](#).

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS

Status Update from the U.S. Green Building Council

Doug Gatlin, Vice President of Market Development at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), provided details on both recent and upcoming activities, referencing new programs such as volume certification, LEED for Neighborhood Development, LEED for Retail, and LEED for Healthcare. The technical development process for LEED version 2012 is also underway. The USGBC is considering integrating three new space classifications for LEED: warehouse and distribution centers, data centers, and hospitality spaces.

Anthony Guma, Real Estate Research Specialist at USGBC, provided an overview on the current status on the USGBC Research Department. The department is focusing on the following new areas: new tools to enhance the use of LEED, building performance assessment, green building business strategies, innovative education, policy research, and research community activities.

ISWG MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATIONS

U.S. Green Building Council's Building Performance Initiative

Tom Hicks leads the USGBC's Building Performance Initiative (BPI). The goal of the BPI is to measure and understand the performance gap between predicted new building performance and actual performance. During the month of October, BPI will engage in a series of Building Performance Summits across the country, gathering input on the varying perspectives on the challenges of delivering building performance.

2009 summit dates and locations include:

September 29 – Chicago, IL
October 6 – San Francisco, CA
October 8 – Los Angeles, CA
October 15 – New York, NY
October 21 – Washington, DC

Participants can [RSVP by clicking the link here](#):

Mr. Hicks encouraged Federal agencies to participate in the October 21st meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting will run from 12-3:30 pm and include lunch. The meeting is located at the DuPont Hotel 1500 New Hampshire Ave, NW at Dupont Circle

Washington, D.C. 20036. Any questions about the event can be directed to Jessica Pinkston at jpinkston@usgbc.org.

BPI will host the first annual Building Performance Summit during the Greenbuild Conference (November 11-13), where participants will review and discuss the findings from the series of summit meetings held during in the previous months.

One of the minimum program requirements for buildings certified under LEED 2009 is to provide energy and water consumption data. In order to track building performance prior to 2009, BPI is seeking historical data from buildings certified under earlier versions of LEED. BPI will create a pilot program, which will include 300-500 individual buildings for its dataset. The post-pilot program version is slated for delivery some time in 2010. For the initial pilot, BPI is requesting building owners and operators to complete detailed surveys regarding underlying building performance issues. This data will serve as the basis for a program evaluation that determines actual green building performance relative to the intent of the building's initial design. There are many incentives for building owner participation, including:

- Monthly billing analysis:
 - Monthly report to building owners
 - Energy Star ratings
 - Billing errors
 - Utility rate-change notification
 - Weather normalized usage anomalies

- Annual building performance report:
 - Comparisons to national benchmarks on energy, water, commuting, financial, and tenant satisfaction, etc.
 - Comparison to LEED peers
 - Overall performance rating
 - General action plan to improve/maintain performance

Green the Capitol, U.S. House of Representatives: Office Greening and Behavioral Change

Allison Rogers, Summer Montacute, and Sarah Jensen, from the U.S. House of Representatives, briefed the ISWG on the Green the Capitol Initiative's activities, and demonstrated a walkthrough of the new *My Green Office Tool*. Green the Capitol is a two and a half year-old team charged with greening the Capitol's operations. Ms. Rogers outlined some of the initiative's successes, including the Capitol Power Plant's switch from coal to natural gas, purchasing wind RECs for 100 percent of the House's electricity, creating a sustainable food service operation, installing meters, and evaluating transportation options. The Capitol also has a 50 percent energy-reduction goal over the next ten years.

Ms. Jensen outlined other ongoing energy-efficient initiatives at the Capitol, including installing ENERGYSTAR® vending machines, reducing runtimes on air system handling systems during low occupancy, sealing holes in air ducts, consolidating computer servers, instituting a night lighting policy, and signing Energy Service Performance Contracts for efficiency projects.

Ms. Montacute discussed the launch of the new *My Green Office Tool*, an online member engagement platform designed to sustain awareness of the Green the Capitol Program. It encourages Members of Congress to practice greening activities within their offices, and to track and store progress in performing greening activities. Ms. Montacute provided a demonstration, which included a view of a typical House office and the efficiency actions which can be taken. The tool allows Members and their staff to input data on their activities and the *Scorecard page* calculates the savings, in energy, carbon, landfill waste and dollars.

Updates to the ENERGYSTAR® Portfolio Manager

ENERGYSTAR® Portfolio Manager is a free online tool supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It serves to benchmark the energy and water use of any commercial building against similar buildings across the U.S. The Portfolio Manager allows users to track data by campus, by groups of buildings, and by individual buildings. Katy Hatcher from the EPA provided an update on Portfolio Manager and how it will soon incorporate a Federal High Performance Sustainable Buildings Checklist to assist agencies in determining which of its existing buildings meet the *Guiding Principles*.

Users of Portfolio Manager are able to enter their data into the system or adapt automated functions to input their information. As an example of automated adaptations, Ms. Hatcher explained how California uses a system that allows utilities to upload their data directly into Portfolio Manager.

Once logged into Portfolio Manager, the user is presented with a series of tabs detailing the five *Guiding Principles*. The user is asked to indicate if a building is in compliance with each *Guiding Principle* by selecting either *Yes*, *No*, *In Progress*, or *Not Assessed*. Suggested compliance verification documents corresponding to each *Guiding Principle* will be made available, as well as report-generating features offering the ability to generate information either on individual buildings or on a campus-wide basis.

To reduce redundant data entry, agencies will be able to upload basic building information from their real property databases into Portfolio Manager.

The Checklist is currently being tested, and should be available to agencies by the end of October.

Current Status of ASHRAE Standard 189.1

Lance Davis from GSA provided an update on the status of ASHRAE Standard 189.1, a standard for design high performance green buildings, except low rise residential buildings. The standard is now in public review for those portions that have received substantial changes since the last review and will be finalized in early 2010. Standard 189.1 will be the first code-enforceable language for high performance green buildings.

More information can be found on the [Buildings.com website here](#).

STAR Community Index: Charting a Clear Path Toward Sustainable Future for All

Lynne Barker, Program Director for International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - Local Governments for Sustainability, introduced the STAR Community Index. ICLEI has partnered with several national organizations, including USGBC and the Center for American Progress, to develop the STAR Community Index, a national sustainability framework for local sustainable communities. Ms. Barker displayed a matrix illustrating several environmental issues that U.S. cities are attempting to address. STAR will create a standardized system for addressing sustainability challenges and economic and social issues. The index is planned for completion by the first quarter of 2011.

ISWG Newsletter

Jesse Feinberg from Energetics, announced that the ISWG is preparing the next ISWG newsletter, which will be published by November 2009. Mr. Feinberg requested that ISWG members contact him with any ideas or topics that they would like to include in the newsletter. He also asked members to alert him to any agency sustainability websites which are not currently listed on the ISWG website.

Tour of USGBC

After the conclusion of the ISWG meeting, the USGBC offered a tour of its 75,000 square foot LEED Platinum office. Tour hosts walked attendees through its office, pointing out some of the innovative design features. To see a list of the sustainable building products used in the USGBC office, click on the link found along with the September 22, 2009 meeting presentations [here](#). To schedule a tour, please contact hqtours@usgbc.org.

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September 22, 2009

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