

## FEMP Working Group Views Sustainable Design Features at Two Federal Facilities

FEMP's Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) continues to promote the collaboration and exchange of information among Federal agencies to advance the use of sustainable design in Federal facilities nationwide. On June 1, ISWG conducted a tour of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's green roof pilot project at the agency's Washington, DC Headquarters facility and a visit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.



*USDA's Pilot Green Roof Technology  
Washington, D.C.*

ISWG members gathered at the main entrance of USDA's headquarters office building to view the agency's green roof system, which was installed in March 2005. The 150-square foot pilot project is located on the roof of one of USDA's utility buildings. The agency is currently monitoring the effectiveness of the technology, which includes a modular system installed inside plastic trays.

Designed by GreenTech, the system is useful on terraced commercial roofs and provides flexibility to re-arrange landscape designs. Project benefits include innovative stormwater management, increased energy performance of the building, improved urban air quality, and the preservation of ecology. The green roof project is just one small element of a much larger effort to incorporate sustainable practices at the USDA Headquarters Complex.

For the second part of the tour, ISWG members took an hour and a half bus ride to NCTC in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, which is located 75 miles outside of Washington D.C. NCTC's goal is to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. The 538-acre campus incorporates a variety of energy and environmental conservation measures and practices and provides full-service residential facilities and professional staff to train and educate natural resource managers.



*ISWG Members at the NCTC in  
Shepherdstown, WV*

NCTC is one of the first Federal facilities to receive a Federal Energy and Water Management Energy Showcase award. Before construction of the complex, studies were conducted to protect and record local cultural resources. The buildings were built to fit surrounding rural structures and interior finishes were designed to reduce volatile organic compounds. The campus includes training and meeting facilities for up to 300, on-site housing for 150, classrooms for 24 to 60 students, adjacent seminar and break-out rooms, dining and auditorium space for up to 250, a cafeteria, informal meeting space, a library, a workout room, a day care center, and a gift shop.

NCTC sustainable features include daylighting and solar exposure through the buildings' east-west orientation; large southern, high-performance glass; fitted sunscreen windows; and extended roof lines. The buildings' HVAC system uses high-efficiency chillers and boilers, primary and secondary pump loops, and air and water energy recovery systems. Energy-efficient lighting has been installed in the building through the use of electronic ballasts, ambient and task lighting, and occupancy sensors. Certain resilient flooring for areas of the physical training center, is made from recycled tires.

*For information on the Interagency Sustainability Working Group, please visit [www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/sustainable\\_workinggroup.cfm](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/sustainable_workinggroup.cfm). To learn about USDA's green roof please contact Ed Murtagh at [Ed.Murtagh@usda.gov](mailto:Ed.Murtagh@usda.gov). Information on NCTC is available at <http://training.fws.gov/>.*