



# Greening Headquarters Update

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

## Greening Updates:

**Sustainability Operations Council**

**Office of Operations**

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## Coming Soon: New Sustainability Executive Order

The draft of a new Federal Leadership in Environmental Energy and Economic Performance Executive Order (E.O.) is under development and highlights new goals for sustainable practices. Additional information on implementation of the new E.O. is under development in an accompanying Guideline. Stay turned for more in the coming months.

## Outreach/Education

We have installed the first piece of what we are hoping will be a larger and more comprehensive environmental information center. The brochure cabinet is located conveniently in the front of the South Building on the first floor by Wing 3 (Between Rooms 1028 and 1030.) The current brochures are about our Waste Minimization & Recycle Program, Energy Management Program, the People’s Garden, and our Environmental Management Plan. Take some for yourself or for colleagues who might benefit from the information.



Photo of one of our new brochure displays

## Sustainable Landscaping

Earlier this year the President signed an Executive Order that mandates that federal facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed strengthen their stormwater practices on their properties. See

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Executive-Order-Chesapeake-Bay-Protection-and-Restoration/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Executive-Order-Chesapeake-Bay-Protection-and-Restoration/) E.O. 13508 “Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration”.

One increasingly popular way to manage stormwater and help the Chesapeake Bay in the region is to install green roofs. Are you interested in learning more about green roofs? Check out the new video about USDA Headquarters’ green roof.

[http://www.serve.gov/stories\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_servestories\\_id=117](http://www.serve.gov/stories_detail.asp?tbl_servestories_id=117)



USDA Whitten Building Roof Top Garden



**Buy Local Foods and remember to use a recycled grocery bag!**

## Local Foods

If you have not already noticed, every Friday at noon at the People's Garden, there is a Chef in the Garden Event. Local chefs have been invited to come and prepare delicious soups, salads, and snacks made from locally grown produce. The Chef in the Garden events will continue through October 30. To see who will be here, check out this link [http://www.usda.gov/documents/8-12-09\\_Chef\\_in\\_the\\_Garden\\_flyer\\_2.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/8-12-09_Chef_in_the_Garden_flyer_2.pdf)



On July 17, Local Tomato Bruschetta was featured.

## Waste Minimization & Recycle

For the months of July and August, over 70 tons of materials were recycled, including record amounts of bottles and cans (over 10,000 pounds in July and August). This huge amount was due in part to the overwhelming use of our outdoor public recycling containers. To meet the summer demand, the Office of Operations installed several large-capacity Clear Stream collection bins for bottles and cans around the exterior of the facility.

The Office of Operations will be testing a new hygienic door handle that not



**Remember to  
wash your  
hands  
frequently!**

only provides a hygienic alternative to the restroom door handles we currently use, but also help us reduce paper waste and litter. Many people use paper towels to open the restroom doors. Some toss the paper towel on the floors once the door is open leaving wadded up paper towels on the floor. In a facility as large as the headquarters complex, this represents a large waste of paper. With concern over the H1N1 flu, hygienic handles for our restrooms could also help reduce the spread of the flu virus. To see how the door handle works, click here <http://www.purleve.com/video/sales-and-product/the-purleve-solution.asp> for a video.



New Hygienic Door Handles

New hygienic door handles which will be pilot tested over the next few months are shown in the picture.

Bio-based Trash Liners: Over the next few weeks, Office of Operations' janitor contractor will be testing bio-based trash liners for office trash cans. The liners are a product of the Ability One Program.

### **USDA Headquarters is a Trash Free Potomac Facility**

The USDA Headquarters is now part of a region-wide effort to have a trash-free Potomac River by 2013. Learn more about this region-wide initiative click on

[http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash\\_initiative/trash\\_freepotomacfacility.html](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_freepotomacfacility.html)

Our Greening the Headquarters efforts (Unwanted Mail Efforts) are in the current USDA News See "How We're Trying To Eliminate All That Unwanted Office Mail" or click here

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=Vol68\\_No4\\_Article1.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=Vol68_No4_Article1.xml)

### **South Building Modernization**

After being on hold for the past few years, the South Building Modernization is back on track. The modernization effort is a major component of our effort to "green" the headquarters. On August 28, the Office of Procurement and Property Management conducted a formal bid opening for the award of the next phase of the South Building Modernization (Wing 5.) If all goes well,

the construction contractor will be given a Notice to Proceed in October. A “Town Hall” meeting for employees about the Modernization Project is scheduled for October. As noted in earlier updates, the South Building Modernization includes incorporating innovative energy efficient products, green construction materials and a requirement to minimize construction waste. The construction specifications for example require Construction Waste Management Plan. The general contractor will be required to recycle at least 75% of the demolition and construction waste generated by the project. Our overall goal is to get the South Building certified as a Sustainable Building through the U.S. Green Building Council.

## Energy

Energy use in the Headquarters Complex continues to decline due in part to energy efficiency projects implemented over the past few years and to the efforts of many who work in the headquarters buildings. Energy use has also declined because many employees are now helping out by shutting down office equipment and lights. Electric usage is down 6% compared to last summer. Since FY 2006, the Headquarters Complex reduced its yearly greenhouse emissions due to energy usage by 2,546 Metric Tonne Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e). The average annual household emissions in the U.S. are about 11.3 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e.



**Solar Decathlon is coming to the National Mall in October.**

## Upcoming Green Event!

The Solar Decathlon will be back on the National Mall from October 9 – 13 & 15-18, 2009. The teams participating in the past Solar Decathlons had very impressive efforts. For more information, see <http://www.solardecathlon.org/>



The Carnegie Mellon University home at the 2007 Decathlon. More than solar energy is highlighted at these events.