

DEC 22 2006

Mr. David L. Winstead
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20405-001

Dear Mr. Winstead:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is one of the signatory agencies to the January 24, 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. USDA is committed to pursuing environmental stewardship and energy efficiency in its owned and leased facilities nationwide, and is requesting the assistance of the General Services Administration (GSA) Public Buildings Service (PBS) in meeting that commitment.

Therefore, USDA is asking that GSA apply the MOU sustainable design principles, as appropriate and cost-effective, to the siting, design, and construction of new facilities for USDA and its agencies. These sustainable design principles include: optimizing site potential; minimizing non-renewable energy consumption; using environmentally preferable products; protecting and conserving water; enhancing indoor environmental quality; and optimizing operational and maintenance practices. We also request that GSA, when entering into contracts and leases on behalf of USDA and its agencies, incorporate lease provisions that encourage energy and water efficiency wherever life cycle cost-effective. Build-to-suit lease solicitations for USDA and its agencies should include criteria encouraging sustainable design and development, energy efficiency, and verification of building performance. As available and cost-effective, USDA has a preference for Energy Star labeled buildings in leased buildings.

We look forward to working with you in helping USDA increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of our buildings and leases nationwide.

Sincerely,


Glenn D. Haggstrom
Senior Real Property Officer

OPPM/SHolcombe/12/22/2006