



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS TIP

Update on Executive Order for Efficient Federal Operations

[Executive Order \(E.O.\) 13834, "Efficient Federal Operations,"](#) was signed in May of 2018. It references a wide range of statutory requirements related to energy and environmental performance. With respect to facilities, vehicles, and overall operations, the order states, "It is the policy of the United States that agencies shall meet such statutory requirements in a manner that increases efficiency, optimizes performance, eliminates unnecessary use of resources, and protects the environment." E.O. 13834 outlines goals for Federal agencies for energy efficiency and renewable energy, water consumption and management, waste prevention and recycling, acquisition and electronics stewardship, fleet management, and others.

E.O. 13834 also includes a goal to "utilize performance contracting to achieve energy, water, building modernization, and infrastructure goals." [Energy Savings Performance Contracts \(ESPCs\)](#) involve partnering with an energy savings company to allow Federal agencies to procure energy savings and other facility improvements with no up-front capital costs. The Forest Service has had success with the ESPC ENABLE program, which is designed to streamline the process. An example of this effort is a [renewable energy project in Region 5](#) that will reduce energy consumption by 80 percent for 63 facilities. The Forest Service is working to implement additional ESPC ENABLE projects over the next 2 years with support from a Department of Energy grant.

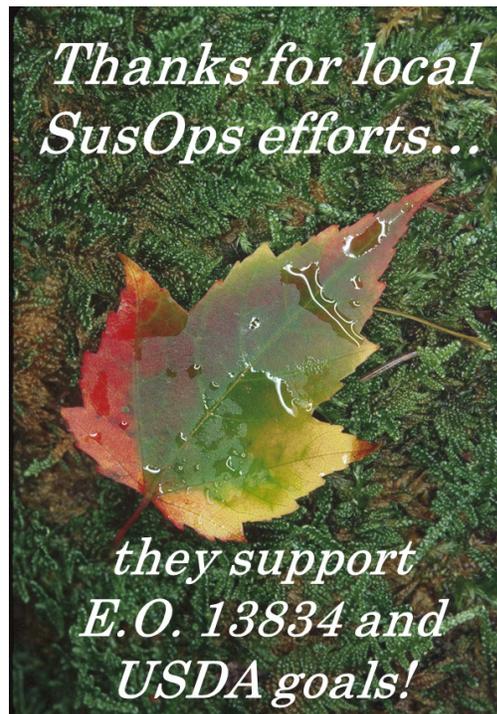
The [Office of Federal Sustainability website has resources for carrying out the E.O.](#), including U.S. code, public laws, guidance, and Federal resources for each goal area. Additional implementation instructions are expected soon.

In a "2018 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan," USDA has identified strategic priorities and actions to help attain a net-zero environmental footprint, including these:

- Conduct valuations of facilities that have the highest energy/water use intensity;
- Utilize Energy Performance Contracts...to meet energy reduction, renewable energy, and water management goals; and
- Perform an annual survey of all fleet vehicles to identify opportunities to eliminate vehicles, right-size them for their mission, and deploy alternative fuel vehicles.

Check out [Federal agency sustainability data and scorecards at the Office of Federal Sustainability website.](#)

Local efforts by Forest Service green teams, local sustainable operations champions, and facilities staff (like those shared in the [October SusOps article](#)) support the E.O. and USDA sustainability goals. The State and Private Forestry, Northern Research Station, and Forest Products Laboratory SusOps Teams and our leadership greatly appreciate local efforts and encourage continued SusOps projects this fiscal year.



U.S. Forest Service photo by Kenneth R. Dudzik

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