

# Government to cut its emissions 28%

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WASHINGTON — The federal government, the nation's largest energy consumer, will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 28% over the next decade, the White House will announce today.

"It's a real opportunity to lead by example," says Nancy Sutley, chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). "And not just for the environment but to spur innovation and create jobs and savings."

The council says the reduction in energy use in the government's 500,000 buildings and 600,000 vehicles will be equal to taking 17 million cars off the road for a year or not consuming 205 million barrels of oil.

Some states, cities and companies have set similar goals, but environmentalists say the federal government's plan is ambitious. "It's a bold target," says Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It's a great deal for the American taxpayers ... and a great example for the rest of the country. "

In 2008, the CEQ says, the government spent \$24.5 billion on fuel and electricity, and the emissions reductions should cut that bill considerably.

The 28% overall goal was reached after 35 agencies, complying with an executive order issued by President Obama in October, set targets for reducing the gases that scientific data suggest cause the Earth to warm.

Each year between now and 2020, the Office of Management and Budget will measure each department or agency's progress and post the results online.

Among the efforts already underway:

- The Army's Fort Irwin training center in California is building a 500-megawatt solar plant in the Mojave Desert that will power the entire 22,000-person base.
- The U.S. Postal Service is building the largest green roof in New York City on a seven-story mail-processing building. Besides providing a park for employees, the roof will save up to \$30,000 a year in energy costs and will reduce polluted storm water runoff.
- The Department of Energy is building one of the largest biomass facilities in the country at its Savannah River site in Aiken, S.C. The \$795 million project will replace an inefficient coal powerhouse and oil-fired boilers, saving \$34 million a year.