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**Headlines**

- HUD Release Proposed FY2012 Budget
- Leading by Example: The Federal Government’s Sustainable Future
- Rockefeller, Lautenberg Legislation Will Reform America's Rail, Highway and Waterway Systems
- President's Energy Budget Invests in Innovation, Clean Energy, and National Security Priorities
- EPA's Power Plant Rules Would Spur Job Creation
- Upcoming Hearing: Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee Oversight Hearing on "Department of the Interior Spending and the President’s Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Proposal"
- Cincinnati at forefront of sustainable schools
- New Jersey Nonprofit Releases Greenbuild Application for Corporate Partners

**HUD Releases Proposed FY2012 Budget**

HUD’s fiscal year 2012 budget proposal. Titled *Creating Strong, Sustainable, Inclusive Communities and Quality Affordable Home*

HUD's $41.7 billion discretionary budget would be a 3 percent or $1.1 billion decrease from $42.8 billion in FY 2011. Also, the budget reduces funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by 7.5 percent or $300 million and HOME Investment Partnerships by 9.5 percent, or $175 million relative to current funding levels. Despite these cuts, HUD's total budget authority would increase 5 percent from $45.1 billion in FY 2011 to $47.2 billion in FY 2012.

*For additional information see: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Times*
Federal Government sets goals for Sustainable Federal Office Buildings
The Obama Administration has released its plan to achieve a 28% reduction in Federal greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 2020 and a net-zero-energy building requirement by 2030. General Services Administration began sustainable construction and retrofit projects around the country, employing 500 businesses and creating jobs in all 50 states. More than 60 companies have enrolled in the GreenGov Supply Chain Partnership and Small Business Pilot. This program is a voluntary collaboration between the federal government and its suppliers to create a greener, more efficient supply chain.

For additional information see: White House Blog

Rockefeller, Lautenberg Legislation Will Reform America's Rail, Highway and Waterway Systems
Chairman John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.) and Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.), longtime Chairman of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee reintroduced the Federal Surface Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2011. According to Senators Rockefeller and Lautenberg, this bill will establish a clear set of goals and objectives for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a surface transportation system that advances the nation’s economic, energy, and national security interests. The Bill also sets forth certain U.S. policy objectives and goals, including to: (1) reduce national per capita motor vehicle miles traveled annually; (2) reduce national surface transportation-generated carbon dioxide levels by 40% by 2030; (3) reduce national surface transportation (including passenger and freight) delays and congestion at U.S. points of entry; (4) increase the total usage of public transportation, intercity passenger rail services, and non-motorized transportation; and (5) ensure adequate transportation of domestic energy supplies.

For additional information see: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation

President’s Energy Budget claims Invests in Innovation, Clean Energy, and National Security Priorities
U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu detailed President Barack Obama's $29.5 billion Fiscal Year 2012 budget request for the Department of Energy. Secretary Chu emphasized that it is part of an Administration-wide plan to “win the future by out-innovating, out-educating and out-building the rest of the world”. Discretionary spending would grow 11 percent to $29.5 billion over its 2010 budget of $26.5 billion. That includes funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which would see a $1.8 billion increase to $11.7 billion. The budget includes $36 billion in loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants and hundreds of millions of dollars for numerous energy-efficiency research grants.

For additional information see: Energy.gov, Federal Times
EPA Claims that Power Plant Rules Would Spur Job Creation

Two new sets of air pollution rules for power plants would create hundreds of thousands of jobs over the next five years, according to a report released by the Environmental Protection Agency. The study was commissioned by Ceres, an investor advocacy coalition that focuses on environmental issues. The proposed Clean Air Transport Rule (CATR), a program aimed at smog- and soot-forming pollution that travels across state lines will require power plants to install new air pollution controls and build new power plants to replace older units. The job-growth estimates were based on projections that the two rules will force the power sector to invest nearly $200 billion to design, build and install equipment. The EPA estimates that these rule changes will lead to the direct creation of about 128,000 full-time jobs.

For EPA’s supporters, examples like this are proof that the rules will work to constrain global warming pollution and create new green jobs. But in the eyes of critics, these new rules will be disruptive to economic recovery. Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee disputed the claims of the EPA in a Wall Street Journal Op-ed. Upton and other Republicans, and some Democrats from coal-mining states, are vowing to stop the EPA’s rules changes.


For additional information see: The New York Times, NPR, Fred Upton for the Wall Street Journal

Upcoming Hearing: House Committee on Natural Resources

Full Committee Oversight Hearing on "Department of the Interior Spending and the President’s Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Proposal"

On March 3rd, the House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a Full Committee oversight hearing on "Department of the Interior Spending and the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Proposal." Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar will testify at the hearing. The hearing can be viewed via live stream on the Committee’s “Live Hearings” link.

For additional information see: House Committee on Natural Resources

Cincinnati at forefront of sustainable schools

Cincinnati Public Schools is among the top school districts in the nation with LEED-registered buildings. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a voluntary national certification developed in 2000 by the U.S. Green Building Council. Cincinnati Public Schools is in the seventh year of a 10-year, $1.1 billion project to rebuild or renovate all of its 58 schools. The construction plan, funded with a mix of state and local money, has generated multiple innovations in geothermal and solar energy. In 2003, voters passed a $480 million bond issue to help fund a $1.1 billion building project.

For additional information see: Cincinnati.com
New Jersey Nonprofit Releases Greenbuild Application for Corporate Partners

Community Options, a national nonprofit organization that develops homes and employment for people with disabilities will be working in partnership with Hopewell Township to develop the first green, sustainable group home for people with disabilities in New Jersey. The organization is working to partner with corporations who have a mission of providing sustainable products and building materials for the purposes of providing in-kind sponsorship towards the development of the home. Recently, this project was deemed worthy of a grant through the Housing and Urban Development body that funds affordable housing projects across the country.

For additional information see: My Central Jersey