

NEW ARMY POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT MAKES ‘LESS, SMARTER, AND BETTER’ A PRIORITY FOR BUILDINGS

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WASHINGTON - On 27 October, 2010, Ms. Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, issued a new policy memorandum to improve high-performance green buildings standards for the Army. “Energy security, sustainability and efficiency are national security imperatives. This policy supports the Army’s global missions in a cost-effective, safe and sustainable manner that will benefit Army Soldiers, Families and the entire Nation,” Hammack said.

The memo, *Memorandum for Sustainable Design and Development Policy Update (Environmental and Energy Performance) (Revision)*, changes the way the Army will approach efficient design of Army facilities. Requirements throughout the planning, programming, budgeting, design and building stages will strengthen the Army’s sustainability, energy security, and energy independence through more responsible consumption and planning.

Incorporation of sustainable design and development principles, following guidance as detailed in American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 189.1, will reduce water and energy consumption, optimize energy efficiencies and performance, and reduce negative impacts on the natural environment. Through strategies such as siting, cool roofs, solar water heating, storm water management and water efficiency, the Army will reduce its impact on the environment. Options will be investigated and documented for each project to evaluate the Army’s ability to utilize renewable and alternative power sources on its installations in a fashion that is compatible with training missions.

Commissioning, measurement and third-party verification are also required to track progress and identify opportunities for further improvement. Lifecycle-cost analyses will be mandatory to promote best business practices.

The Army’s commitment to sustainable design and development extends beyond construction or renovation savings, Hammack said, “High-Performance buildings are critical to cost effective life cycle management of our infrastructure and national energy security. Maintaining access to vital resources, including energy, water and the environment is vital for accomplishing the Army’s global missions.”

While the overall benefits gained through efficiencies and reduced consumption will vary based on location, buildings in compliance with the new policy are expected to yield significant energy savings for the Army over current construction standards. Preliminary analysis by the US Army Corps of Engineers indicates energy savings over current design of 45% or greater.

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