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Office of Facilities Planning | Facilities Standards Service

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ALERT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
THIRD-PARTY RATING OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

1. ISSUE: On January 1, 2012, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) began requiring that all new construction and major renovation projects seeking LEED certification for inpatient, outpatient, or long-term care facilities must use the LEED for Healthcare rating system.

2. BACKGROUND: The VA *Sustainable Design and Energy Reduction Manual* (April 2010) requires major construction projects to achieve a third-party green building certification of at least LEED Silver or two Green Globes.

VA commissioned a study to determine the impact of USGBC's new requirement on VA's construction program. The study compared LEED for Health Care (LEED HC) to LEED for New Construction (LEED NC) and determined that there will be little impact to cost or effort when using LEED HC in lieu of LEED NC. (1)

Projects using the Green Building Initiative's (GBI) Green Globes rating system will not be affected.

3. NEW STANDARD: All VA healthcare projects registering for LEED certification after January 1, 2012, must use the LEED for Healthcare rating system if the facility meets the definition of a healthcare facility in USGBC's *Rating System Selection Guidance* and must achieve the credits shown in Figure 1 of this alert.

Healthcare projects using Green Globes will continue using the Green Globes rating system applicable to that particular project.

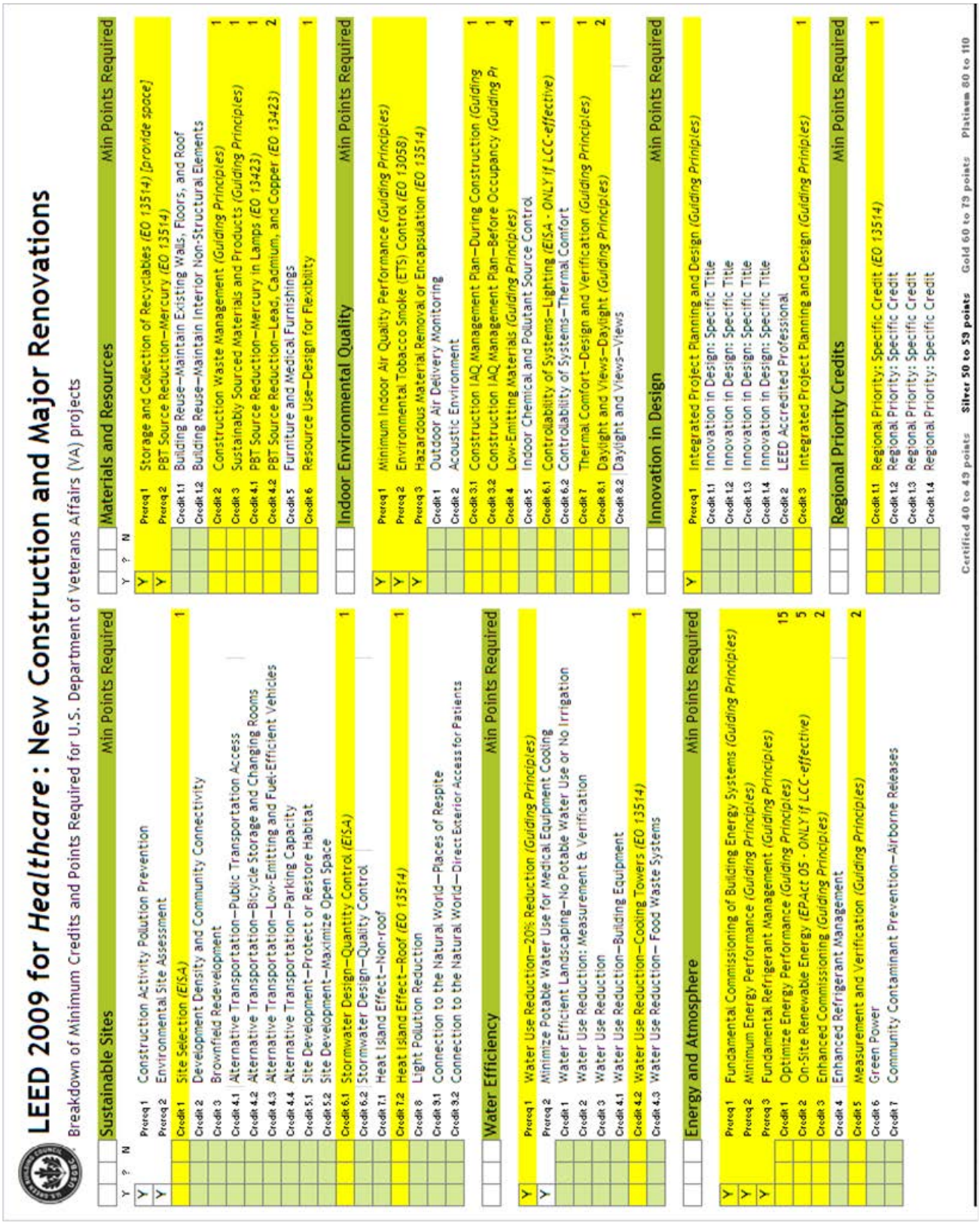
Non-healthcare facility project teams will continue to evaluate their projects using LEED or Green Globes criteria to determine the appropriate rating system for their project.

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr., PE, Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.

REFERENCES:

1. HDR Architecture, Inc. *Sustainability Requirements Analysis Report.* January 2012.

June 1, 2012
003C2B-SA-003



LEED 2009 for *Healthcare* : New Construction and Major Renovations

Breakdown of Minimum Credits and Points Required for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) projects

Y	?	N	Sustainable Sites	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	
Y			Prereq 2 Environmental Site Assessment	
			Credit 1 Site Selection *(EISA)*	1
			Credit 2 Development Density and Community Connectivity	
			Credit 3 Brownfield Redevelopment	
			Credit 4.1 Alternative Transportation—Public Transportation Access	
			Credit 4.2 Alternative Transportation—Bicycle Storage and Changing Rooms	
			Credit 4.3 Alternative Transportation—Low-Emitting and Fuel-Efficient Vehicles	
			Credit 4.4 Alternative Transportation—Parking Capacity	
			Credit 5.1 Site Development—Protect or Restore Habitat	
			Credit 5.2 Site Development—Maximize Open Space	
			Credit 6.1 Stormwater Design—Quantity Control *(EISA)*	1
			Credit 6.2 Stormwater Design—Quality Control	
			Credit 7.1 Heat Island Effect—Non-roof	
			Credit 7.2 Heat Island Effect—Roof *(EO 13514)*	1
			Credit 8 Light Pollution Reduction	
			Credit 9.1 Connection to the Natural World—Places of Respite	
			Credit 9.2 Connection to the Natural World—Direct Exterior Access for Patients	

			Water Efficiency	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Water Use Reduction—20% Reduction *(Guiding Principles)*	
Y			Prereq 2 Minimize Potable Water Use for Medical Equipment Cooling	
			Credit 1 Water Efficient Landscaping—No Potable Water Use or No Irrigation	
			Credit 2 Water Use Reduction: Measurement & Verification	
			Credit 3 Water Use Reduction	
			Credit 4.1 Water Use Reduction—Building Equipment	
			Credit 4.2 Water Use Reduction—Cooling Towers *(EO 13514)*	1
			Credit 4.3 Water Use Reduction— Food Waste Systems	

			Energy and Atmosphere	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Fundamental Commissioning of Building Energy Systems *(Guiding Principles)*	
Y			Prereq 2 Minimum Energy Performance *(Guiding Principles)*	
Y			Prereq 3 Fundamental Refrigerant Management *(Guiding Principles)*	
			Credit 1 Optimize Energy Performance *(Guiding Principles)*	15
			Credit 2 On-Site Renewable Energy *(EPAct 05 - ONLY if LCC-effective)*	5
			Credit 3 Enhanced Commissioning *(Guiding Principles)*	2
			Credit 4 Enhanced Refrigerant Management	
			Credit 5 Measurement and Verification *(Guiding Principles)*	2
			Credit 6 Green Power	
			Credit 7 Community Contaminant Prevention—Airborne Releases	

Y	?	N	Materials and Resources	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Storage and Collection of Recyclables *(EO 13514) [provide space]*	
Y			Prereq 2 PBT Source Reduction—Mercury *(EO 13514)*	
			Credit 1.1 Building Reuse—Maintain Existing Walls, Floors, and Roof	
			Credit 1.2 Building Reuse—Maintain Interior Non-Structural Elements	
			Credit 2 Construction Waste Management *(Guiding Principles)*	1
			Credit 3 Sustainably Sourced Materials and Products *(Guiding Principles)*	1
			Credit 4.1 PBT Source Reduction—Mercury in Lamps *(EO 13423)*	1
			Credit 4.2 PBT Source Reduction—Lead, Cadmium, and Copper *(EO 13423)*	2
			Credit 5 Furniture and Medical Furnishings	
			Credit 6 Resource Use—Design for Flexibility	1

			Indoor Environmental Quality	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance *(Guiding Principles)*	
Y			Prereq 2 Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) Control *(EO 13058)*	
Y			Prereq 3 Hazardous Material Removal or Encapsulation *(EO 13514)*	
			Credit 1 Outdoor Air Delivery Monitoring	
			Credit 2 Acoustic Environment	
			Credit 3.1 Construction IAQ Management Plan—During Construction *(Guiding*	1
			Credit 3.2 Construction IAQ Management Plan—Before Occupancy *(Guiding Pr*	1
			Credit 4 Low-Emitting Materials *(Guiding Principles)*	4
			Credit 5 Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control	
			Credit 6.1 Controllability of Systems—Lighting *(EISA - ONLY if LCC-effective)*	1
			Credit 6.2 Controllability of Systems—Thermal Comfort	
			Credit 7 Thermal Comfort—Design and Verification *(Guiding Principles)*	1
			Credit 8.1 Daylight and Views—Daylight *(Guiding Principles)*	2
			Credit 8.2 Daylight and Views—Views	

			Innovation in Design	Min Points Required
Y			Prereq 1 Integrated Project Planning and Design *(Guiding Priniples)*	
			Credit 1.1 Innovation in Design: Specific Title	
			Credit 1.2 Innovation in Design: Specific Title	
			Credit 1.3 Innovation in Design: Specific Title	
			Credit 1.4 Innovation in Design: Specific Title	
			Credit 2 LEED Accredited Professional	
			Credit 3 Integrated Project Planning and Design *(Guiding Priniples)*	1

			Regional Priority Credits	Min Points Required
			Credit 1.1 Regional Priority: Specific Credit *(EO 13514)*	1
			Credit 1.2 Regional Priority: Specific Credit	
			Credit 1.3 Regional Priority: Specific Credit	
			Credit 1.4 Regional Priority: Specific Credit	

Certified 40 to 49 points **Silver 50 to 59 points** Gold 60 to 79 points Platinum 80 to 110

(Note: Yellow indicates a mandatory credit)

Figure 1. ***Minimum Credits Required for VA Projects Using LEED for Healthcare***

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ALERT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN COMMISSIONING

1. ISSUE: The VA *Sustainable Design and Energy Reduction Manual* (Apr 2010) was published prior to release of the VA *Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual* (Aug 2010). Therefore, the Sustainable Design Manual does not clearly identify commissioning requirements, causing confusion during project design and construction.

2. BACKGROUND: VA is required by Executive Order 13423 to comply with the 2006 *Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings* (Guiding Principles). The Guiding Principles encourage the use of total building commissioning as a means by which to improve building performance and enhance sustainability.

VA adopted whole building commissioning as a standard practice and requires its use on projects costing more than $5M, with details outlined in the VA *Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual*.

3. STANDARD: To comply with the sustainable design and construction requirements of Executive Order 13423, VA projects must follow the requirements outlined in the VA *Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual*.

In particular, the following requirements must be met: 1) Projects costing more than $5M require commissioning, and 2) Commissioning Agents (CxA) must be involved in a project no later than the Pre-Design Phase.

In addition, all projects pursuing third-party green building certification under the Green Globes program must achieve Credit 6.3, "Whole Building Commissioning," and projects pursuing certification under LEED must achieve Energy & Atmosphere Prerequisite 1 "Fundamental Commissioning of Building Energy Systems" and Energy & Atmosphere Credit 3 "Enhanced Commissioning".

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr., P.E., Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.

August 1, 2012
003C2B-SA-004

Standards

Office of Facilities Planning Facilities Standards Service

Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Construction & Facilities Management

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ALERT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
RENEWABLE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

1. ISSUE: Current guidance regarding renewable energy does not clearly identify renewable energy requirements for construction and renovation projects.

2. BACKGROUND: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005) requires federal agencies to generate a minimum of 7.5% renewable electrical energy. When reporting compliance, Department of Energy guidance allows federal agencies to "double-count" renewable energy that is both generated and consumed onsite.

VA has established a goal of meeting 15% of its annual electrical consumption as renewable energy. To meet this goal as an agency, all new construction and major renovation projects will need to either generate 7.5% renewable electrical energy onsite or import 15% renewable electrical energy from offsite.

In addition, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) requires projects to meet 30% of hot water demand through the use of solar hot water technologies, if lifecycle cost effective. Due to the difference in energy sources, this requirement does not help satisfy the renewable energy requirements of EPAct 2005.

3. NEW STANDARD: All major construction and major renovation projects must include the installation of onsite renewable energy technologies sufficient for providing a minimum of 7.5% of the project's expected annual electricity consumption, to the extent economically feasible and technically practicable. If the renewable energy requirement will be met from an offsite source, the source must provide at least 15% of the project's annual electricity consumption.

In addition, all major construction and major renovation projects must include the installation of solar hot water equipment to provide a minimum of 30% of the project's hot water demand, if lifecycle cost effective.

Project planning must include a determination of renewable energy potential. If a project site has poor potential for renewable energy, resulting in renewable energy not being cost effective, the project team must contact CFM to discuss alternatives.

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr., P.E., Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.

January 1, 2013
003C2B-SA-005

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Office of Facilities Planning | Facilities Standards Service

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ALERT

ENERGY EFFICIENT DESIGN OF MAJOR RENOVATIONS

1. ISSUE: May 2013 guidance from VA's Office of Asset Enterprise Management (OAEM) updates the energy efficient design requirement for major renovations.

2. BACKGROUND: Memo from the Executive Director of the Office of Asset and Enterprise Management (OAEM), dated May 6th, 2013, states that all major renovation projects must "reduce energy use by at least 30% compared to the baseline established by using ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1-2007 Energy Standard, Appendix G."

The standard for major renovations, as written in the *Sustainable Design and Energy Reduction Manual (April 2010)*, requires major renovations to reduce energy usage 20% below 2003 pre-renovation baseline.

This *Standards Alert* updates the design standard to reflect VA policy.

3. NEW STANDARD: Major renovation projects must be designed to reduce energy use by a minimum of 30 percent compared to the baseline building performance rating per AHSRAE 90.1-2007, Appendix G, if lifecycle cost (LCC) effective.

If the energy reduction requirement shown above cannot be achieved with an LCC-effective design, adjust the design to achieve the highest level of energy reduction possible that is LCC-effective.

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.

August 1, 2013
003C2B-SA-006

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ALERT

LIFECYCLE COST-EFFECTIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. ISSUE: Recent VA guidance clarifies that all renewable energy technologies used to meet renewable electricity goals must be lifecycle cost-effective.

2. BACKGROUND: Memo from VA's Senior Sustainability Officer (SSO) and Director of the Office of Asset Enterprise Management (OAEM), titled "*Keeping Our Promises to Veterans Through Sustainable Buildings*" (May 6th, 2013) states "Implement on-site renewable energy generation, unless proven ineffective through life cycle cost analysis."

Previous guidance does not specifically state this requirement for lifecycle cost effectiveness, causing confusion during project design.

This new requirement applies specifically to renewable electricity generation. Since solar hot water mandates already require lifecycle cost effectiveness, this new standard will now apply to all renewable energy systems.

3. NEW STANDARD: All renewable energy equipment included in VA facility designs must be lifecycle cost-effective (LCC-e). When the design budget includes funding for renewable energy technologies, and all renewable energy systems have been determined not to be LCC-e, those additional funds must not be included in the construction funding request.

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.

August 1, 2013
003C2B-SA-007

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ALERT

DESIGN FOR THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE (SLR)

1. ISSUE: VA is required to incorporate climate change adaptation considerations into the design of its facilities. As part of this effort, VA has determined that SLR is a major threat to VA facilities.

2. BACKGROUND: In November 2013, the President signed Executive Order 13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. The Executive Order increases requirements for agency adaptation in response to climate change.

In response to previous climate change adaptation requirements, VA conducted a preliminary vulnerability assessment and determined that facilities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change-induced SLR.

VA's Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) developing detailed guidance for adapting facilities to the impacts of climate change and SLR. This *Standards Alert* serves as interim guidance for incorporating SLR planning into major construction projects.

3. NEW STANDARD: Incorporate SLR considerations into the planning and design of construction and renovation projects. Consider alternate site locations and physical modifications necessary to reduce the threat of SLR on facilities and infrastructure. Coordinate facility planning with local and regional climate change adaptation plans.

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov .

Sources:
Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change, Nov 2013.
VA Directive 0065, Jun 2012.
VA Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation, Jun 2011
Draft Final VA Preliminary Vulnerability Analysis, Sep 2011

April 1, 2014
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Standards

Office of Facilities Planning — Facilities Standards Service

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ALERT

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (CHP) SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

1. ISSUE: A revision to VA Directive 0055 changes requirements for installing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems in new Medical Centers.

2. BACKGROUND: VA Directive 0055 (VA Energy and Water Management Program), published in 2010, required all new medical centers to install CHP systems. This directive was revised in December 2014 and no longer contains such a requirement. Instead, the updated version states "Combined heat and power and renewable generation shall be considered for inclusion in all projects."

3. NEW STANDARD: Requirements in section 4.4.1 (Combined Heat and Power) of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual* (May 2014) shall be replaced with the following language: "Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems shall be considered for inclusion in all new construction and major renovation projects. CHP systems shall only be included if found to be life-cycle cost-effective."

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

August 1, 2015
003C2B-SA-009

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Office of Facilities Planning — Facilities Standards Service

Department of Veterans Affairs — Office of Construction & Facilities Management

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ALERT

SEA LEVEL RISE: DESIGN FOR THE IMPACTS

1. ISSUE: VA is required to incorporate climate change adaptation considerations into the design of its facilities.

2. BACKGROUND: In November 2013, the President signed Executive Order 13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. The Executive Order increases requirements for agency adaptation in response to climate change. Further guidance, including specific requirements for compliance by federal executive agencies to improve resilience to current and future flood risk was published in Executive Order 11988 on January 30, 2015. In response to these Executive Orders, and in compliance with VA's sustainability objectives, VA has conducted a vulnerability assessment and determined that certain coastal facilities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change-induced Sea-Level Rise (SLR).

VA's Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) has developed detailed guidance for adapting VA facilities to the impacts of climate change and SLR. This *Standards Alert* serves as guidance for incorporating SLR planning into Major Construction projects.

3. DISCUSSION: While there is not a consensus among the scientific community on the accuracy of SLR predictions, there is a consensus that global sea levels are rising and will increasingly affect coastal areas in the future. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has created a web-based tool providing SLR predictions based on NOAA and USACE adopted methodologies. This tool is referred to as the Sea-Level Change Curve Calculator (http://www.corpsclimate.us/ccaceslcurves.cfm). The Sea-Level Change Calculator appears to be the most broadly accepted source of SLR predictions among federal and other agencies.

4. NEW STANDARD: Incorporate SLR considerations into the planning and design of construction and renovation projects for all VA facilities located within coastal areas. Evaluate SLR vulnerability by calculating the "low," "intermediate," and "high" estimates of local sea level based on the project's useful lifecycle using the Sea-Level Change Curve Calculator and adding potential flood

impacts based on surge, tide, and wave data. Compare the resulting flood hazard area and flood elevation with the elevations of critical site facilities for the three SLR-influenced estimates. The selection of SLR estimate to use in decision-making shall be based on the risk associated with the facility. If determined to be vulnerable to flood effects, consider alternate site locations or physical modifications necessary to reduce the threat of SLR on facilities and infrastructure. Coordinate facility planning with local and regional climate change adaptation plans.

5. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Office of Facilities Planning, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

Sources:
Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change, Nov 2013.
VA Directive 0065, Jun 2012.
VA Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation, Jun 2011
Draft Final VA Preliminary Vulnerability Analysis, Sep 2011

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ALERT

ASHRAE 90.1-2013 ADOPTED BY VA

1. ISSUE: The United States Department of Energy (DOE) published a *Final Rule* on November 6th, 2015, increasing energy efficiency requirements for new Federal commercial buildings.

2. BACKGROUND: Section 305 of the *Energy Conservation and Production Act* requires DOE to establish building energy efficiency standards for all new Federal buildings. As required by law, DOE periodically reviews new versions of ASHRAE 90.1 to determine whether or not the federal government should adopt the new version.

The *Final Rule* published November 6th, 2015 updates the energy efficiency standard for new Federal commercial buildings from ASHRAE 90.1-2010 to ASHRAE 90.1-2013. This *Final Rule* articulates that the federal government has officially adopted ASHRAE 90.1-2013. Compliance with this standard is required for all Departments and Agencies of the federal government.

3. NEW STANDARD: All new, VA-owned buildings, except low-rise residential buildings, entering design on or after November 6th, 2016, must be designed to meet the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1-2013.[i] If lifecycle cost-effective, reduce energy use by 30 percent compared to the baseline building performance rating per AHSRAE 90.1-2013, excluding receptacle and process loads[ii].

If a lifecycle cost-effective design cannot be achieved that meets the 30% reduction requirement, select the most efficient design that meets lifecycle cost-effectiveness requirements and all minimum requirements of ASHRAE 90.1-2013.[iii]

4. CONTACT: James Symanski, Jr., P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov .

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[i] Final Rule, Federal Register, 80 FR 215, 10 CFR Part 433, November 6th, 2015

[ii] 10 CFR part 433.100

[iii] 10 CFR part 433.100

October 12, 2016
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Standards

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ALERT

DAYLIGHTING REQUIREMENT

1. ISSUE: New federal mandates update daylighting requirements for new construction and modernization projects.

2. BACKGROUND: Section 6.4.1 of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual* details requirements for daylighting in VA construction and renovation projects.

3. DISCUSSION: In 2016, the White House Council on Environmental Quality released the *Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings and Associated Instructions,* herein referred to as the *Guiding Principles*. This document supersedes the *High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance* published in 2008. The new *Guiding Principles* document provides updated daylighting requirements and necessitates modification of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual* requirements.

4. NEW STANDARD: All new construction, and modernization, projects of 5,000 square feet, or more, must "Maximize opportunities for daylighting in regularly occupied space, except where not appropriate because of building function, mission, or structural constraints." Provide adequate documentation to demonstrate compliance with this requirement in all design phases.

This requirement replaces section 6.4.1 of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual*.

5. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Office of Facilities Planning, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

Sources:
Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings and Associated Instructions, Feb 2016.
VA Sustainable Design Manual, May 2014.

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Office of Facilities Planning | Facilities Standards Service

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ALERT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS IN BUILD-TO-SUIT LEASES

1. ISSUE: Section 1.3.3 of the *VA Sustainable Design Manual - May 2014* (SDM) requires "All build-to-suit lease projects shall be treated, and meet the same requirements, as agency-owned new construction projects." This language is no longer applicable and may cause confusion when drafting requirements for build-to-suit leases.

2. BACKGROUND: Section 1.3.3 of the SDM was driven by language from *VA Directive 0055 (VA Energy and Water Management Program)*, which stated "Build-to-suit lease facilities shall be designed and constructed to comply with all new building mandates." In December, 2014, VA updated *Directive 0055*, removing the language. In addition, the newly revised *Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings* (Feb 2016), significantly loosened requirements for leased facilities to comply with the *Guiding Principles*.

3. DISCUSSION: The Office of Real Property (ORP), in VA's Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM), is obligated under a leasing delegation to comply with General Services Administration (GSA) leasing requirements. Conflicting requirements in the SDM will cause confusion. This *Standards Alert* lifts the above-stated requirement in Section 1.3.3 of the SDM.

4. NEW STANDARD: Section 1.3.3 of the *VA Sustainable Design Manual (May 2014)* is hereby rescinded. All VA Build-to-Suit lease projects shall follow General Services Administration sustainable lease guidance, to the extent required by GSA's lease delegation.

5. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Office of Facilities Planning, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

Sources:

1. VA Sustainable Design Manual (May 2014)
2. VA Directive 0055 (Dec 2014)
3. Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings and Associated Instructions (Feb 2016)

August 1, 2017
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ALERT

INTERNAL CERTIFICATION OPTION FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS COMPLIANCE

1. ISSUE: VA's Office of Asset Enterprise Management (OAEM) has added an internal certification option for validating compliance with the *2016 Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings* ('*Guiding Principles*').

2. BACKGROUND: VA is required to comply with numerous Federal mandates for sustainable buildings. In 2010, VA chose to require certification under the *Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design* (LEED) or *Green Globes* programs to assist in validating compliance with the original *Guiding Principles*. Under this requirement, projects were required to achieve certification levels of either LEED Silver or two Green Globes. In 2014, VA added a requirement for projects to submit "*Guiding Principles Checklists*" to further assist validation efforts.

3. DISCUSSION: On July 25th, 2017, OAEM authorized an "internal certification" procedure for all construction and renovation projects. This new procedure can now be used in lieu of the LEED/Green Globes certification requirement.

4. NEW STANDARD:

See next page for new requirements.

Projects currently under design or construction should be evaluated to determine if this new internal certification option would be appropriate for use; if so, the VA project team may choose to use internal certification in lieu of past certification requirements. In these cases, the VA project official should notify the Sustainable Design Program of their intent to switch certification methods.

5. CONTACT: James Symanski, Jr., P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Office of Facilities Planning, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

August 3, 2017
003C2B-SA-015

The following requirements replace those found in Section 2.5 of the *VA Sustainable Design Manual* *(May 2014)*:

2.5. VALIDATING COMPLIANCE.

All VA construction and renovation projects occurring on buildings of 5,000 square feet, or more, shall validate compliance with the *2016 Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings* (Guiding Principles). Projects shall use one of the following paths:

a. Option A (*preferred method*): Internal Certification.

This option applies to major and minor projects, including new construction and/or renovation.

During every design phase, complete a copy of the appropriate *2016 Guiding Principles Checklist*, available from the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) website. Include the checklist, and supporting documentation during every design review. Upon project completion, submit final checklist and supporting documentation to the VA Green Buildings SharePoint site.

b Option B: Green Globes Certification and Checklist Completion

Certify the project using Green Building Initiative's "Green Globes" program. Achieve a minimum of two Green Globes.

During every design phase, complete a copy of the appropriate *2016 Guiding Principles Checklist*, available from the FEMP website. Include the checklist, and supporting documentation during every design review. Upon project completion, submit final checklist and supporting documentation to the VA Green Buildings SharePoint site.

c Option C: LEED Certification and Checklist Completion

Certify the project using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. Achieve a minimum of LEED Silver.

During every design phase, complete a copy of the appropriate *2016 Guiding Principles Checklist*, available from the FEMP website. Include the checklist, and supporting documentation during every design review. Upon project completion, submit final checklist and supporting documentation to the VA Green Buildings SharePoint site.