



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of the Navy Chief Sustainability Officer Serial One: Infrastructure

- References: (a) Secretary of the Navy Memorandum, "Designation as Department of the Navy Chief Sustainability Officer," April 19, 2022
(b) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Requirement for the Designation of Military Department Chief Sustainability Officers," March 16, 2022
(c) Title 10, U.S. Code
(d) Executive Order 14057, "Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability," December 8, 2021
(e) DON Climate Action Plan 2030

Sustainability for the Department of Defense means maintaining the ability to operate into the future without decline.¹ For the Department of the Navy, sustainability is a mission enabler that facilitates essential operations; enhances readiness; maximizes independence, resilience, and security; minimizes environmental impact; and supports natural and man-made systems. Sustainability is key to our ability to combat the threat of climate change and reduce its impacts on our people and mission.

Per reference (a), and in response to and accordance with reference (b), I am designated as the Department of the Navy Chief Sustainability Officer (DON CSO). In this role, I am responsible for establishing and overseeing execution of sustainability goals and metrics across the DON and facilitating resource allocation to achieve such goals. As CSO, I will establish policy and guidance and oversee execution of sustainability goals and metrics across the DON, including goals established pursuant to reference (c), those identified in reference (d), and other Executive Orders, statutes, directives, and guidance. In accordance with references (d) and (e), the Department shall immediately begin a focused effort to drive consideration of sustainability across the DON's mission and operations.

The focus for this memo – the first in a series that I will release to set and shape the Department's policies and practices – is on infrastructure, specifically Sustainable Building Design and Facility Decarbonization. With thousands of renovation, modernization, sustainment, and new construction projects already underway or planned, and hundreds more in design it is critical that the Department act now to incorporate the latest technologies and materials in to our facilities. Just as the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program is a once-in-a-generation investment, it also provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to incorporate leading edge designs for electrification and emissions reduction.


¹ DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (2022)

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Service policies and engineering codes and standards require updating now and will continue to need to keep pace in the future, and the Services are working diligently to achieve and maintain a timely cycle of revisions. However, some of these sustainable material and design solutions, like low carbon concrete and commercial scale heat pumps, are available today and are used at scale in both the public and private sector. We must keep pace and anticipate our future needs and environment. As such, I am directing the Secretariat, Navy and Marine Corps to immediately:

- Incorporate sustainable design elements into all new construction and renovation projects to accelerate the Department's obligation and commitment to references (d) and (e) to move the DON towards a net-zero facility² inventory.
- Design elements should include, but are not limited to, the use of sustainable materials, electrification of building systems, elimination of fossil fuel combustion systems and equipment where all-electric technology alternatives exist, building envelope improvements, passive mechanical systems, efficiency measures, and on-site power generation.
- Apply lessons learned from the development of the Sustainable Building Material pilot project, the Net-Zero building pilot projects, and other energy efficiency and resiliency projects – in real time to transfer the learning into action in other project design – and to continuously update and improve facility criteria and design standards.
- Quantify intensity and consumption reduction (electricity, water, etc.) and emissions reductions resulting from sustainable design elements of all capital improvement projects. Establish metrics and document during project development (engineering estimates) and post-construction or commissioning (measurement and verification).
- Identify pathfinder opportunities for additive manufacturing of facilities.
- Ensure the workforce is trained and equipped to design, build, operate, and maintain sustainable facilities and all-electric systems.

This process will be iterative, collaborative, and innovative, and it will acknowledge and accelerate proven products and tools in the marketplace. Our collective effort will quickly move the Department towards the desired endstate of standard facility design elements that are electrified, sustainable, energy efficient, carbon-free, and resilient.



Meredith Berger

² A Net-zero emissions building is defined as a building designed and operated so that, when connected to a regional electrical grid fully serviced by carbon pollution-free electricity (CFE), the scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions from all operational end uses are zero on an annual basis. Initial focus of the DON's net-zero facility effort will be addressing scope 1 emissions.

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