

2020 Guiding Principles (GPs) for Sustainable Federal Buildings

1. Beginning June 29, 2021, new construction and modernization¹ of buildings over 5,000 square feet shall comply with the requisite criteria of the most current [Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings](#), per NNSA SD 430.1 and DOE O 436.1.
 - a. Although a building's function, mission, safety, or designation may prevent it from being fully compliant, if applicable per D.4. below, the GPs must still be assessed, tracked, and complied with to the fullest and most life cycle cost-effective extent possible.

A building that meets the 18 core and 9 out of 12 non-core criteria will be certified by the DOE/NNSA as a "sustainable Federal building". Any building that fails to meet the requisite criteria, but does optimize as many criteria as are life cycle cost-effective will be designated as a "Federal high-performance building".
2. The GPs are similar to LEED in terms of applying set criteria to the siting, design, construction, commissioning, and operation of new facilities and modernization of existing facilities. Project management must ensure a plan (e.g., contract wording, budgeting, etc.) for project completion including the following tasks related to GPs:
 - a. Assign a member of the sustainability program to the Integrated Project Team. Email site-sustainability@lanl.gov to determine which team member to assign to the IPT, and discern the current practice for tracking compliance.
 - b. Review the GPs in the project planning phase and determine necessary measures to achieve compliance. Assign responsible parties from the A/E, contractor, or project management team to ensure compliance with each criteria selected.
 - c. Complete the GPs checklist during the design process and update as needed through design and construction. Sustainability should be integrated into the process as is life safety, accessibility, design changes, etc.
 - d. Collect and store documents for submission at project completion.
 - e. Prior to project closeout, review and complete documentation and assist the sustainability program in brokering approval by DOE/NNSA. **A project is not considered complete until the project is certified.**
3. Third-Party verification:
 - a. The GPs allow for verification through Third-Party Building Certification Systems. For projects already required to certify with LEED, this may provide certain efficiencies for project teams to also certify the Guiding Principles. Consult Appendix C of the GPs to find approved versions of the third-party certification systems. Note that many statutory and regulatory requirements are not included in the third-party systems and must still be met and documented.
4. Buildings that are exempt from compliance with the GPs:
 - a. are 5,000 GSF or less, or
 - b. are non-building assets, or
 - c. are leased, or
 - d. have a status indicator of ROE submitted or accepted, Determination to Dispose, or Surplus, or
 - e. meet all of these conditions:
 - i. Unoccupied: The building is occupied 1 hour or less per person per day on average,

¹ Includes joined transportables when over 5,000 square feet.

- ii. Low/No Energy Use: Total usage from all sources is less than 12.7 kBtu/GSF/year, and
- iii. Low/No Water Use: Consumption is less than 2 gal/day on average.

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