

**U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)
Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings**

**Discussion Preparation for Green Building Advisory Committee Meeting
November 27, 2012**

Topic:

Federal Building Performance Training Act of 2010, Core Competency and Demonstration Tool Review

Background:

The Federal Building Personnel Training Act of 2010 requires the Administrator of the GSA to identify core competencies necessary for Federal personnel performing building operations and maintenance, energy management, safety and design functions to comply with federal law. FBPTA directs GSA to:

- (a) identify core competencies,
- (b) designate relevant courses, certifications, degrees, licenses and registrations which demonstrate compliance with the core competencies,
- (c) develop or identify comprehensive continuing education courses “to ensure the operation of Federal buildings in accordance with industry best practices and standards.”
- (e) develop a recommended curriculum relating to facility management and the operation of high-performance buildings, and
- (f) develop and approve a method for non-Federal personnel performing these functions under contract to demonstrate compliance with the core competencies.

The Office of Federal High Performance Green Buildings has chosen to establish the Facility Management Institute (www.FMI.gov) as a platform to implement the FBPTA, allow federal employees and their supervisors to track their compliance with the law, and create a community of facility subject matter experts to exchange ideas and accelerate innovation in the field of facility operations and management.

Development and Review Process:

- Initial development and concurrent public and private sector review of Core Competencies conducted: January – September 2011.
- Core Competencies and proposed Curriculum delivered: June 2012
- Facility Management Institute launches www.FMI.gov including a web-based tool to demonstrate compliance with core competencies: September 2012
- Development and approval of method to demonstrate Core Competency compliance by non-Federal, contractor personnel planned: March 2013.

- Updates to Competencies, designated compliance methods and Curriculum provided annually: beginning June 2013.

Current Status:

The Facility Management Institute website, www.FMI.gov, acts as both a platform to provide the services required by the FBPTA, and, as a “cloud” institute to provide a conduit between facilities subject matter experts in the government, industry and academic communities. The expert panel and report that GSA commissioned from the National Academies, “Achieving High Performance Federal Facilities,” found that facility managers prefer to learn from one another and this has informed our development of FMI.gov. Our website is being developed to provide a dynamic social media environment where personnel can interact through forums, blogs and email. FMI.gov will also provide extensive links to relevant information found on other sites like the Whole Building Design Guide, Federal Energy Management Program, and the Center for Integrated Facility Engineering.

Throughout 2011, GSA in conjunction with the Department of Energy developed and sought public and private sector comment on 12 core competency areas. In June 2012 these competencies were delivered and in October 2012 the www.FMI.gov website was updated to include a tool for federal personnel and their supervisors to evaluate training required by their position, identify gaps in their training and find and track designated avenues to gain compliance. This tool is designed to help GSA ensure transparency, enhance collaboration and drive innovation during implementation of the FBPTA. The agency is still considering how best to allow non-Federal employees performing facility maintenance under contract to the federal government to demonstrate compliance.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How can we best leverage the platform of the Facility Management Institute to act as a useful conduit for collaboration among facility management stakeholders in government, industry and academia?
2. How well does the current www.FMI.gov website fill the role as a platform for demonstrating compliance of Federal personnel with the requirements of the FBPTA and thereby improving Federal facility manager skills?
3. What do you see as the greatest needs for Federal (and non-Federal) facility management training and in what ways would you advise FMI to help fill these needs?
4. What would be the best way to structure FMI so as to allow non-Federal companies to demonstrate core competency compliance by their employees working on Federal contracts and leases?