DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C
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SUBJECT: Air Force "Net Zero" Energy, Water, and Waste Policy

This policy memorandum establishes the Air Force policy and end-state goals to achieve an Air Force "Net Zero" posture for installation energy, water, and waste. This policy supports and builds upon the sustainability goals and objectives already established in Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance," the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Air Force Energy Plan, the 2011 Air Force Implementation Plan for the DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and the Air Force policy memorandum on Pollution Prevention, dated April 27, 2012.

Net Zero does not represent an unfunded mandate, but instead refocuses existing energy, water, and waste investments on finding cost savings/cost avoidance opportunities while achieving Net Zero goals. It is not the intent of this policy to create a new program, but to use, to the extent possible, existing energy, water, and waste-related staff, programs, metrics, and reporting capabilities to fulfill Air Force Net Zero goals and objectives. Moreover, any strategic investment decisions made to achieve the goals and expectations of this policy will be grounded in solid business case analysis, with primary payback targeted within the Future Years Defense Program and secondary consideration targeted for a ten-year payback.

For the purposes of this policy, a Net Zero Energy posture is defined as reducing energy demand, improving the assured availability of facility/process energy for mission-critical operations, and increasing generation of renewable energy to the greatest extent practicable in order to consume no more energy than is generated. A Net Zero Water posture is defined as reducing consumption of potable water to an amount no more than can be practicably captured and reused, repurposed, or aquifer-recharged. A Net Zero Waste posture is defined as reducing the disposal of waste in all its forms (e.g., non-hazardous solid waste, hazardous waste, and medical waste) through the application of the pollution prevention hierarchy to the greatest extent practicable (to include avoiding landfilling and maximizing recycling).

This memorandum also directs the establishment of a Tiger Team to build a strategic, economically-sensitive Air Force-wide approach to these end-state goals. This should include leveraging public-private partnerships and regional solutions wherever possible, such as when the economic viability of a Net Zero project depends upon conditions and contributions beyond the installation boundary (as could be the case with energy demand or waste). The Tiger Team shall build a streamlined plan, recommending specific objectives, targets, and appropriate baselines and measurement criteria that will most efficiently and effectively address the end-state goals. The plan should leverage and integrate efforts already underway, and find opportunities to meet these ambitious end-state goals, while improving energy security and driving down costs

for the collective benefit of the Air Force. The Tiger Team shall be co-chaired by SAF/IEE and AF/A7C, and will deliver, within 90 days from the date of this memorandum, a draft Air Force Net Zero Strategic Implementation Plan, that embraces the intent of this policy memo.

The Tiger Team will evaluate and make recommendations for environmentally sound and economically feasible waste management and/or waste-to-energy conversion projects to minimize waste sent to landfills as much as technically possible. To support the economic analysis for a decision to invest in a waste management and/or waste-to-energy project, the Tiger Team shall establish a monetary threshold reflecting the potential environmental liability associated with disposing of Air Force waste (hazardous, non-hazardous, and medical) into a regulated or unregulated landfill in the event that landfill would fail (i.e., what is the worst case scenario in terms of legal/technical/administrative effort, remediation liability, sampling and analysis, reporting, etc., that the Air Force could pay as a contributor to the landfill?), as well as the standard contracting costs, tipping fees, and transportation fees that are traditionally paid to dispose of such waste into a landfill.

This Net Zero policy reinforces the Air Force's commitment to support its operational mission by leading in energy and environmental management. The Air Force will do this by complying with legal requirements, reducing unacceptable risk to operations from energy-related considerations and environmental impacts, and balancing any necessary investments against unfunded operational requirements. By continuously improving energy and environmental management practices to be more effective and efficient, and carefully considering return on investment, the Air Force will ensure sustainable management of the resources that we need to adequately fly, fight and win into the future.

This policy is effective immediately. If you have any questions about this policy memorandum, please contact Mr. Michael McGhee, SAF/IEE, (703) 697-9297, michael.mcghee@pentagon.af.mil, for Net Zero Waste; or Ms. Carol Ann Beda, SAF/IEN, (703) 697-1207, carolann.beda@pentagon.af.mil, for Net Zero Energy and Net Zero Water.

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Attachment:
References

REFERENCES

a. Executive Order 13514: *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance* (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-10-08/pdf/E9-24518.pdf)

b. 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr1540/text)

c. Air Force Energy Plan (http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091208-027.pdf)

d. DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (http://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainability/upload/DoD-SSPP-FY11-FINAL_Oct11.pdf)

e. 2011 Air Force Implementation Plan for the DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120228-062.pdf)

f. Air Force Policy Memorandum on Pollution Prevention, 27 Apr 12 (https://eis.af.mil/cs/edash/Documents/Pollution%20Prevention%20(P2)/P2%20Policy%20Memo.pdf)

g. Air Force Instruction 32-7001, *Environmental Management* (http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/afi32-7001.pdf)