

SUSTAINABILITY TRACK

Session 2



Phoenix, AZ
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The **VA** Approach to Rating Existing Buildings



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EO 13423 Sustainable Building Mandate for Existing Buildings

E.O. 13423, sec. 2(f)(ii): In implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the head of each agency shall ensure that ...

15 percent of the existing Federal capital asset building inventory of the agency as of the end of fiscal year 2015 incorporates the sustainable practices in the Guiding Principles.

Our VA Facilities



- **Healthcare**
 - 153 hospitals
 - 895 outpatient clinics
 - 135 nursing homes
 - 47 residential rehabilitation treatment programs
 - 209 readjustment counseling centers
 - Primarily organized into medical centers
- **Other**
 - 57 veterans benefits regional offices
 - 125 national cemeteries





Rating VA's Existing Buildings

- **150 million gsf of building space**
 - 15% = 22.5 million gsf
- **Set 50,000 gsf as a minimum threshold for evaluation**
 - Approximately 73% of buildings are above the threshold
- **Facilities to evaluate**
 - 167 Medical Centers (complexes)
 - 4 VA Regional Office Buildings



Rating VA's Existing Buildings

- Now what do we do?





Rating VA's Existing Buildings

- Decided to create a sustainability self-assessment survey based on LEED-EB 2.0
 - Not a replacement for LEED-EB certification
 - Identify “likely to be” LEED-EB facilities
- Task Force developed simplified questions with “yes” or “no” answers
 - Members represented various levels of VA facility management



Rating VA's Existing Buildings

- **Used an in-house survey resource with web capability**
 - Identified 9 pilot sites to test the survey
 - Revised survey questions based on their feedback
 - All targeted VA facilities completed the survey
 - Included 167-VHA & 4-VBA facilities

Rating VA's Existing Buildings





Rating VA's Existing Buildings

- **Survey Results**
 - “Likely to be” Silver Level – 1 facility
 - “Likely to be” Certified Level – 11 facilities
 - “Likely to be” Below Certification Level – 159 facilities



So What Does This Tell Us?

- Using average sizes for facilities we figured we need roughly **25-30** facilities to meet or exceed the certified level
 - We got **12**...
 - But another **13** facilities were only 1 or 2 points shy of the “likely to be” certified level
- We are close.



Where to Next?

- **Original Plan:**
 - Select top ranked facilities for obtaining LEED-EB certification
 - Repeat sustainability assessment annually to account for changes
- **Possible Changes:**
 - Modify sustainability assessment to meet new *Guiding Principles for Existing Buildings*
 - Accelerate applications for LEED-EB certification
 - Evaluate use of Green Globes certification tool



Would you like to know more about this session?

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- **Don't forget to fill out and drop off your session evaluations.**



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