



Office of the Chief  
Financial Officer

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# News from the Center for Environmental Finance

Advancing sustainable finance and technology solutions

## The Environmental Financial Advisory Board Holds Webcast Meeting in October 2011

The Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), an EPA advisory committee, convened its first ever Webcast meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from informed speakers on environmental finance issues and EPA priorities and to discuss progress on work projects under EFAB's Strategic Action Agenda.

EPA Deputy Administrator, Bob Perciasepe opened the meeting with a hearty welcome and emphasized to the members the Agency's appreciation for the Board's advice and recommendations over the years on a variety of priorities. He commented on the importance of the Board's current projects and its focus on financing Tribal environmental programs, clean air technology, and environmental technology and sustainable communities. He also noted the financial and economic challenges that lie ahead for the Agency and that he is looking forward to the Board's forthcoming findings and recommendations. The Board also heard from Chief Financial Officer Barbara Bennett, who addressed the membership on funding EPA's priorities in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

The Board discussed major policy issues and requests for Board input from EPA headquarters and regional program offices. A total of nine requests for assistance were received that reflected a variety of programs and areas of interest across the Agency. With three ongoing projects already underway, the Board chose to add four new projects to its agenda that were most urgent Agency priorities

and within the scope of its charter. The four projects are: Drinking Water Pricing and Infrastructure Investment; Financing Green Infrastructure (water); Energy Efficiency/Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions; and Sustainability of Tribal Environmental Infrastructure. The Board will convene working groups to address the Agency's charges and develop recommendations for consideration and implementation.

### Upcoming Events

February 22: Webinar: EPA Region 8 Energy Conservation and Water Conservation  
<http://www.epa.gov/region8/tribalschools/>

March 20-21: Environmental Financial Advisory Board Meeting, Washington, DC  
<http://www.epa.gov/envirofinance/efab.html>

March 22: Environmental Financial Advisory Board Transit-Oriented Development Workshop, Washington, DC  
<http://www.epa.gov/envirofinance/efab.html>

April 13: Maryland Department of the Environment Clean Car Clinic, Emmitsburg, MD  
<http://www.efc.umd.edu/CleanCarClinic.html>

*A complete summary of the meeting can be read at <http://www.epa.gov/envirofinance/publications.html#meetings>. EFAB's next meeting is scheduled for March 20-22, 2012 in Washington, DC.*

## Financial Tool Spotlight: World Green Building Council

The World Green Building Council (World GBC) is a coalition of national Green Building Councils that provides leadership and a global forum to increase the pace of market transformation from traditional, inefficient building practices to high-performance, energy efficient buildings. The World GBC works to accelerate development of green building rating systems and provides organizational tools such as advocacy, facilitation, information with a non-partisan approach, helping transform the building industry in the direction of sustainability through market driven mechanisms.

Recognition of successful national Green Building Councils and the governments that partner with them is a high priority for the World GBC. Na-

tional Green Building Councils are member-based organizations that partner with industry and government to create change in their local markets as a way to globalize environmentally and socially responsible building practices. National Councils train local and set standards for green buildings nationally. The World GBC encourages National Green Building Councils to submit photos and descriptions of their best local projects for recognition in the library of case studies on the World GBC's Website.

To acknowledge the successes of governments partnering with National Green Building Councils, the World GBC presented the first World GBC Government Leadership Award

at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in November, 2011. This award recognizes policies called "best practice initiatives" implemented by city and regional governments that improve building practices in a way that mitigates carbon emissions.



*For additional information on the World Green Building Council, please visit <http://www.worldgbc.org/site2/>. For information on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, please visit [http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop\\_17/items/6070.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_17/items/6070.php).*

## New Mexico Environmental Finance Center Releases Interactive Asset Management Guide

The New Mexico Environmental Finance Center (EFC) recently announced the release of *A.M. Kan Work!*, an interactive guide to Asset Management and Energy Efficiency. This manual, designed to guide small to medium sized water and wastewater systems through the process of asset management, was sponsored by the Kansas Department



of Environmental Health and prepared by the New Mexico EFC. Asset management allows utilities to provide a sustained level of service at the lowest and most appropriate life cycle cost for water and wastewater treatment equipment. It helps utilities make sound decisions by answering questions about investments and costs. The five core components of asset management are asset inventory, level of service, critical asset assessment, life cycle costing, and long-term funding strategy.

The *A.M. Kan Work!* guide is a valu-

able tool designed for use by wastewater and wastewater utility owners, operators, managers and board members for assessing the current status of their operations and for developing strategic plans for sustainable water and wastewater service. The asset management processes promoted in this manual help utilities to work toward EPA's goal of protecting America's waters in a cost effective way.

The manual is available in print form with interactive DVDs or DVDs only.

*For more information on the manual and to order a copy visit <http://nmefc.nmt.edu/AssetManagement.php>.*