

December 15, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Energy has a responsibility and an opportunity to lead by example in promoting sustainable energy practices. As many of you have heard me say, energy efficiency is one of our best and most immediate opportunities to save energy, cut utility bills and decrease carbon pollution.

I want to thank you for the steps many of you have already taken to reduce energy consumption. Today, I'm asking all employees at the Forrestal Building to take these efforts to the next level by participating in a competition to save money by saving energy.

We recently divided the Forrestal complex into five zones and installed electric meters to measure the daily electricity consumption of overhead lights and power outlets in each zone. You've probably seen the banners that divide the zones. The data on your zone's energy use will be posted on television monitors around the building, as well as on the Department's [Powerpedia site](#).

On January 1, 2011, we will launch a competition between the five Forrestal metering zones to see which zone can reduce its energy use the most each month. The zone that has the biggest reduction from the previous month will be that month's winner, and there will be an overall winner for the year. Further details about the competition are available [here](#).

To help everyone get into the competitive spirit, I am asking members of the Department's senior leadership to serve as Captains and Co-Captains of each zone. This competition promises to be fun and bring Forrestal employees together to achieve an important goal: saving taxpayer money by saving energy.

I urge you to get involved in helping to promote a culture of sustainability at the Department. Together, we can reduce energy consumption, energy bills, and our carbon footprint. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu