

Some Hill E-Mail Systems Set for Big Price Hike

Emily Yehle
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Some Members will be paying thousands more dollars annually to sort and manage their e-mail after **House** officials approved with little or no negotiations a price hike for several companies that provide such services.

The increase could be as much as \$8,000 a year in some offices, according to staffers with knowledge of their offices e-mail systems. That would make a noticeable dent in their offices limited annual budget, known as the Members Representational Allowances.

But theres also not much they can do. Switching companies is difficult and time consuming, and with 313 million e-mails arriving at both the **House** and Senate in 2006, for example, an e-mail management program is a must.

Most simply go to the vendors that already have been pre- approved by the **Chief Administrative Officer** and the **House** Administration Committee.

The CAO and committee have certain requirements for security, ease of use and capability. But they dont negotiate prices. Instead, the vendor sets the price that Member offices have to pay. There are no negotiations and no special deals for individual offices, **House** Administration spokesman Kyle Anderson said.

Vendors submitted pricing that they believed would cover their cost, Anderson wrote in an e-mail, adding that the committee does advise the vendors what they think the market rate should be. But, says Anderson of the vendors: The final choice is theirs.

For more than 75 percent of **House** offices, the e-mail program, or Correspondence Management System, comes from Lockheed Martin.

The company offers two programs Internet Quorum and Capitol Letters that store, organize and help manage the thousands of e- mails and letters that come into each office every month. But Lockheed is shutting down Capitol Letters by the end of 2009 and is in the process of convincing offices to make the switch to IQ. That program is the most expensive offered in the **House**, with a monthly charge of at least \$2,100 without maintenance, according to a Lockheed pricing chart obtained by Roll Call. Neither Lockheed nor the **House** Administration Committee would comment on the prices.

This lack of competition can mean lost innovation, said Rob Pierson, the online communications director for Rep. Mike Honda (D- Calif.) and president of the **House** Systems Administrators Association.

Its nice to have an approval process, especially for offices with no time to research companies, he said. But staffers also need to band together to ensure that the technology keeps up with their needs. HSAA and other **House** groups already have met to discuss ways to centralize technology resources and explore other e-mail management options.

Congressman Honda believes the innovative spirit of Silicon Valley needs to come to the **House** in the form of increased competition between vendors and lower barriers to entry for new [CMS] packages, he said. The CMS packages need to keep up with the pace of innovation in the advocacy world.

The problem, say **House** techies, is that there only are so many companies that have developed software to the Houses specification.

Four companies are approved by the **House** Administration Committee for use in Member offices: Lockheed Martin, InterAmerica, Monarch and Centurum. Others are in the pipeline to be approved, a process that Anderson said takes a minimum of three months.

This is a way we guarantee and we make sure every Member is getting a uniform level of service the same product line, the same response time and is treated equally no matter what his or her constituency or politics, Sterling Spriggs, the technology director on the **House** Administration Committee, said.

But Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), for one, has decided to go off the beaten path.

After deciding that InterAmericas system didnt match the offices needs and unwilling to pay Lockheed Martins high prices, her office has decided to go with an unapproved company called Government Response. The company has been waiting for approval for two years, owner Gene Gentile said.

When shopping for a new mail vendor, we decided to go with Government Response because we found that both of the two main companies failed to meet all of our needs and we were particularly concerned about the large price increases for 2008, Jonathan Beeton, the spokesman for Wasserman Schultz, wrote in an e-mail. It appears that decreased competition has resulted in fewer choices for Member offices while at the same time creating higher costs.

Only a handful of offices choose to hire an unapproved vendor, Anderson said. The committee strongly encourages that offices use only approved vendors, he said, because they have been screened for security and other necessities.

However, using an unapproved vendor means the office can negotiate prices and outline their own specifications rather than being limited to the restrictions of the **House** contract.

And some have lost a bit of faith in the approval process. Earlier this fall, officials initially approved a contract with Lockheed that only offered offices a package for both CMS and maintenance, which made prices jump up by as much as \$1,000 each month. But after offices complained, Brady renegotiated the contract, allowing offices to hire one company for their e-mail management and another for server and computer maintenance. Prices, however, still increased.

The price hike was necessary to keep up with cost-of-living increases, Lockheed spokesman Joe Wagovich said.

Each Member has an option to choose from about four different plans so the Member can choose a plan that has no increase or a modest increase, he said.

Wagovich, however, declined to list the prices or the increases, citing a confidentiality agreement with the **House**. Anderson also declined to outline the prices, saying the information was private because it was a direct communication with the Member offices.

Lockheed officials have also argued that the increase was necessary after 10 years of keeping prices almost steady. In an e-mail to staffers, Lockheed **House** program manager Andrew Kaplan wrote that prices for IQ only increased by 3 percent in both 2005 and 2006, while Capitol Letters has increased less than 1 percent since it was introduced.

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Tasty New Options Are on the Table

Elizabeth Brotherton

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After months of anticipation (and a week of dwindling rations in **House** cafeterias), Restaurant Associates officially takes over as the new vendor for **House** food service operations today.

RA has promised to offer gourmet-quality meals, often prepared from scratch and made from local and sustainable food. A new ready-made food service also will premiere, allowing staffers to grab lunch on the go, along with the new Quick Pay card, which lets staffers pay for their lunch without cash - and credits 10 percent of any purchase back to the card.

Plus, staffers needing to shed a few pounds after the holidays can track their intake with the vendor's healthy dining program, which will highlight meals and offer monthly visits with a nutritionist.

The **House** Administration Committee announced in August that the New York-based food service provider would take over from Guest Services Inc., the local company that previously oversaw **House** cafeterias. **Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** is in charge of overseeing the transition and has used it as an opportunity to spruce up the cafeterias themselves.

RA is expected to bring an entirely new feel to **House** cafeterias, and although RA takes over today, many cafes will remain closed this week, including the Rayburn Cafe.

Once they reopen, many will be remodeled, and most will feature recycling centers that include receptacles for organic waste. Compostable disposable containers, utensils and cups will replace styrofoam, tying the changeover into the **House's** Green the Capitol Initiative.

Quick Pay cards also premiere today, replacing the Debitex system that allowed staff to pay for their meals without cash. There are no sign-up or usage fees for the card, and staffers can sign up for the card at First Call+, located in the Longworth **House** Office Building.

Overall, menu prices are expected to stay the same, although they could be adjusted based on portion sizes, ingredients and preparation styles and other factors, according to CAO officials.

But the willingness to provide a variety of portions, ingredients and preparation styles is considered one of the top reasons that RA was brought in to run **House** cafeterias, officials said. Menus are expected to be diverse, and chefs are expected to add new dishes throughout the year.

Menu highlights in the Rayburn cafeteria include a la plancha, a grilling of premium organic chicken, grass-fed beef and wild salmon. The Chef's Corner will rotate a variety of food, including pasta, stir-fry, Caesar salad and seafood, and a self-serve breakfast bar will be offered for those wanting to grab an early bite.

In the nearby Rayburn Deli, a variety of Mediterranean flatbreads and pressed sandwiches will be served, alongside hot dogs and sausages, salad and frozen yogurt.

A new salad bar will be featured in the Longworth cafeteria, and new food stations will offer international and specialty salads. Sushi also will be available twice a week. The Cannon Cafe will launch a new sub sandwich program, featuring a choice of four cold and two hot subs.

The Capitol Market will feature a variety of American regional picks, and a speciality station will rotate a variety of foods, from barbecue to sushi to Italian dishes.

Two entirely new food options will premiere. The Creamery will replace Scoops in the Longworth Building and feature Gifford's Ice Cream, a locally based company that features seasonal items. The Creamery also will serve hot desserts, smoothies and locally made candies. The Longworth Convenience Store will get a complete makeover and a new name: Goodie's. Healthier snacks and new flooring, shelves and fixtures will be featured once Goodie's opens next year, officials said.

All hourly union associates who wanted to continue working in **House** cafeterias were offered positions with RA, and most took jobs, according to officials. But some employees decided to leave the **House**, including Ben Solomon, who ran the Longworth Convenience Store.

A native of Ethiopia, Solomon came to the United States in 1982 and studied engineering at the University of the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland. He spent about 20 years working in guest services for the chamber, eventually serving as store manager of the Longworth store.

Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.) paid tribute to Solomon on the **House** floor on Thursday.

"For the residents of Longworth, Mr. Solomon was the quiet, unassuming friend who greeted us when we made a pit-stop to the store for an afternoon snack to get us through the rest of the day," Meek said. "One of his employees said it best, when she said that Mr. Solomon will truly be remembered as 'A person who gets along with everyone.'"

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Democrats Tout Green Achievements

Elizabeth Brotherton

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Six months after officially unveiling the Green the Capitol Initiative, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and **House** Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) are touting Congress eco-friendly accomplishments and fending off Republican criticisms of the project.

In a Dear Colleague letter sent to Members on Monday, Pelosi and Hoyer said they expect that by the end of the 110th Congress, the **House** will be the worlds only carbon-neutral legislative body.

The **House** is taking real action to reduce green **house** gases that we hope will serve as an international model, the pair wrote. We are looking at all aspects of **House** operations to green the way we do business.

Employee transportation, food service, procurement and other areas will be improved to become green, according to the letter. But along with buying new light bulbs and using renewable power, the greening project also has garnered controversy in the past several months, as Republican leaders remain skeptical that the initiative actually has done anything.

These are more like bumper sticker slogans than real accomplishments for taxpayers and the environment, said Brian Kennedy, a spokesman for Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio).

Boehners staff has hit the greening project hard in recent weeks, most notably in a Nov. 6 talking points memo that labeled the initiative as a waste of money.

Democrats will burn nearly \$4 million in taxpayer dollars to fuel their green power initiative this year alone, even though nobody can demonstrate its potential benefits, the memo reads.

But **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** said he fundamentally disagrees with that assessment of the greening project, which he is charged with overseeing.

Ive been really excited about the progress that were making, creating support for the greening effort amongst all the offices, Beard said. You know, youre changing human behavior here, and trying to change the way you do business.

Beards efforts certainly have the approval of the Democratic leadership. Beard noted that many of the greening efforts such as buying renewable power and switching from coal to natural gas in the Capitol Power Plant have been given the official thumbs-up in the **House** but cant be implemented until the legislative branch appropriations bill is passed by the Senate.

The CAOs Green the Capitol office released an official list of greening accomplishments on Tuesday. Among them: replacing 84 vending machines with Energy Star equivalents; reducing cooling fan run-times by 14 percent; activating economizers on air conditioners, cutting their energy use by 20 percent; eliminating styrofoam and plastic food-service items in **House** cafeterias; and replacing existing cups, takeout containers and utensils with 100 percent compostable items.

But concern also remains among Republicans over one of the CAOs most touted accomplishments the \$89,000 purchase of carbon offsets from the Chicago Climate Exchange. A spokeswoman for **House** Administration ranking member Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) said Beard purchased the credits without waiting until the Government Accountability Office released a report on the CCX, which has been criticized by some environmental groups as ineffective.

This is nothing more than smoke and mirrors, Ehlers spokeswoman Salley Collins said of the Dear Colleague letter. What Members should be telling their constituents is that the Democratic leadership has opted to purchase environmental indulgences, and that they get to foot the bill.

But in the long term, the purchases made now will not only save the planet but also save taxpayer dollars, Beard said.

Everything we are doing is the 21st century way of doing business, Beard said.

Efforts will kick up this weekend, when Restaurant Associates takes over as official vendor of **House** food operations, Beard noted. Along with better meals and more food variety, RA has promised to go green, from getting rid of styrofoam to turning cafeteria waste into eco-friendly composts, Beard said.

I really think that when we are turning trash into a commercial product and saving money, to me that's an example of using good, common sense, Beard said.

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Beard Fires Back at Greening Plan Critics

Elizabeth Brotherton

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House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard and an array of Members are speaking up in support of the Green the Capitol Initiative, a project that in recent weeks has been criticized by Republican leaders as a waste of taxpayer funds.

That opposition surfaced most notably in a Nov. 6 talking points memo written by the press office of Minority Leader John Boehner (R- Ohio) and sent to Republican **House** Members. The letter, a copy of which was obtained by Roll Call, argues that the greening initiative "means burning taxpayer dollars by the ton ... even though nobody can demonstrate its potential benefits for the environment."

Boehner's letter specifically takes the CAO to task for buying about \$89,000 worth of carbon credits from the Chicago Climate Exchange. The Nov. 5 purchase has been questioned by an array of Members, in part because a Government Accountability Office report studying the CCX - which has been criticized by other organizations in the past - has not yet been issued.

"Speaker Pelosi and Captain 'Green' Beard have plans in the works to spend millions turning the Capitol into a 'sin absolving' wonderland for Members and staffers alike," the memo reads. "American taxpayers already pay for the salaries of Members and staff; they shouldn't be stuck with the check" for greening efforts.

Beard, the man charged with overseeing the project, is now firing back. In an interview Friday, he argued that the letter was off base, saying that the initiative already has been successful and will save Congress money in the long term.

"Here we are trying to cut our operating costs and promote energy conservation and energy efficiency, and I guess I was just flabbergasted when I read it," Beard said of the letter. "It just sort of came out of the blue."

Beard also gained support from Members, who argued the greening effort is important and necessary, and that Boehner's memo is inaccurate.

"Mostly, it is just wrongheaded," Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a leading green advocate, said of the letter.

"One of the things that has concerned me since I first came to Congress is that it is one of the least green places I've encountered," Blumenauer said, adding that "there's a lot of energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our little Capitol Hill village."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) charged Beard with greening the **House** shortly after she took control in January. Beard officially presented Pelosi with his report in June, which outlined short- and long-term things that can be done to make the **House** carbon-neutral and eventually self-sustaining.

That report was largely positively received. But in recent months, critics have emerged, including many who argue it was undertaken too quickly without enough thorough research.

Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.), ranking member of the **House** Administration Committee, is among them. He sent Beard a letter in November asking that he wait until the GAO report was complete to buy the offsets. Beard did not.

"The ranking member has made his concerns exceedingly clear to Mr. Beard, and had requested that he wait for the GAO assessment," Ehlers spokeswoman Salley Collins said Friday. "Beard has simply opted to ignore the cautions despite multiple reports questioning the validity of the CCX."

Beard defended the offset purchase.

"I think it's absolutely the right move to make," he said. "We've done the best we can by buying renewable power and switching to natural gas. But in the end, we still had a certain amount of carbon emissions."

But a Boehner spokesman said Friday that concern about the offset purchase remains.

"Offsets don't solve any problems," spokesman Brian Kennedy said. "They just waste taxpayer dollars."

Aside from the offset issue, the letter also criticizes other Green the Capitol efforts, including: the introduction of a hybrid vehicle ride-share program (which will allow staffers to "catch a movie during work hours," according to the letter); spending \$10,000 a week to purchase renewable energy; purchasing Segway personal transporters; spending \$2.7 million to switch to more energy-friendly fuels at the Capitol Power Plant; and using "climate neutral" adhesives, sealants, paints and other construction supplies in **House** buildings.

"I think most Republicans would say that taxpayer dollars could be used in far more efficient ways, on some of the more critical issues," Kennedy said. "Is having hybrid rental cars for staffers and green paint and light bulbs for the Capitol complex, at taxpayer expense, really the best use of the taxpayer's time and dollars, given the lack of return?"

Some of that criticism is simply wrong, according to CAO officials. For example, there are no plans to buy Segways at all, although three were showcased during the CAO's recent Green Transportation Expo. And while a ride-share program has been established, **House** staff will need to pay to use the vehicles - the **House** will not be charged.

Officials also note that the \$10,000 a week to buy renewable energy will be offset in the long run by energy conservation actions, and the \$2.7 million for the plant is needed because it will eliminate more than 10,000 tons of carbon emissions. And switching to new adhesives and other supplies is much better for the indoor air quality of **House** buildings.

Beard also got further support for the greening project when Blumenauer joined Reps. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.), Sam Farr (D-Calif.) and George Miller (D-Calif.) in a Nov. 15 special order session.

On the Republican side, Rep. Mark Kirk (Ill.) also has shown support.

"Everybody from Wal-Mart to Coca Cola to [General Motors] are doing these kinds of things," Beard said. "And they are doing it for a reason. You not only reduce your greenhouse emissions, but you save money."

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Family's Cafeteria in Ford Set to Close

Elizabeth Brotherton

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For 14 years, the Skenteris family has brought a unique flair to Capitol Hill, serving up pizza and sandwiches alongside Greek dishes like gyros and rice pilaf in the Ford **House** Office Building cafeteria.

But with the impending introduction of a new food vendor for all **House** cafeterias, the Skenterises likely aren't going to have a home in the Ford Building much longer.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard has terminated their food services contract in the Ford Continental Cafeteria. The family's last day is set for Feb. 15.

"We're very successful here," said Artemis Dimopoulos, who runs the cafeteria and nearby carryout with her brother, Christopher Skenteris, and her parents, Jordan and Soula Skenteris. "We're a small business. My family was shocked."

The **House** Administration Committee officially announced in August that Restaurant Associates, a New York-based company that has earned praise for its menu at the National Museum of the American Indian, would take over **House** dining operations in December.

Restaurant Associates is expected to bring an array of changes to **House** cafeterias. All will be remodeled in some way, with environmentally friendly lighting, energy-saving cooler configurations and expanded food layouts.

Menus also will change. The Longworth Food Court will get a new salad bar and soup stations, while the Rayburn cafeteria will get a buy-by-the-ounce breakfast bar, for example.

The decision effectively ended the **House's** relationship with Guest Services Inc., which currently runs food service in every **House** building except Ford. But the Skenteris clan thought its spot in the Ford Building was secure.

After all, they have been on their own for more than a decade. And in that time, they have acquired a loyal customer base and managed to make a profit while staying affordable, Dimopoulos said.

"I have kept my prices extremely low," Dimopoulos said Wednesday, speaking at her memento-filled office just off the cafeteria's kitchen. "Low, so it can be fair for the people to come and eat."

CAO spokesman Jeff Ventura said the decision to switch all the buildings to Restaurant Associates was based on a number of factors, including statistics that showed the approval rating for the Ford cafeteria had declined to 58 percent in 2007 from 74 percent the year before.

"The Skenteris operation did not bring as much to the table as Restaurant Associates," Ventura said. "That said, the CAO is willing to review his own decision based on any new information the Skenteris family wishes to share."

House Administration spokesman Kyle Anderson said Wednesday that Restaurant Associates was selected for the job after an extensive process that looked at a variety of issues, from unionization to green issues.

"All of the proposals were reviewed by an evaluation team which deemed the Restaurant Associates proposal as the best one," Anderson said.

Added Ventura: "RA brought a long list of valuable services to the table, like more selection, healthier options, a willingness to invest in and upgrade facilities, diverse offerings that frequently change, and chef-led cooking. These are the changes people have been asking for."

The family officially will appeal the decision with the CAO, an action that must take place by Nov. 30,

Dimopoulos said. Should Beard side against the family, they can further appeal to the **House** Administration Committee. But that appeal could only move forward if there had been procedural errors in the earlier appeals process.

Ventura said the contracting process has been fair and was conducted in strict compliance with applicable regulations.

When the family's five-year contract expired in 2004, CAO officials told them that their status in the Ford Building could be affected by the new vendor hired for the planned Capitol Visitor Center cafeteria, Ventura said.

Still, in 2004, the CAO and the family agreed to a two-year contract extension, Ventura said.

In 2006, the CAO gave the Skenteris operation two options: modify the contract to extend it for another year or keep the two-year option included in the original contract, with the understanding that the 1999 contract gave the CAO the option to terminate at any time, with six months' notice.

The family decided on the latter, Ventura said.

But the family said they were completely blindsided by the CAO's decision, and they remained baffled. Dimopoulos said they had thought the only way their contract would be terminated would be if they had an extremely bad approval rating or did something wrong - neither of which has happened.

They are taking the possible closure as a personal insult, they said, because they felt they had become a permanent part of the Capitol Hill family.

When the anthrax attacks in 2001 shut down the Ford Building, the family still made time to make dishes for overworked Capitol Police officers trying to make things safe, Christopher Skenteris recalled.

"We were closed for the anthrax," he said. "And we gave police food anyway. Everyone who was working on the emergency."

Since word of the termination has gotten out, the family has garnered support from customers who manned a petition table across from the Ford Post Office during lunchtime this week. The petition asks customers to help "Save the Ford Cafeteria."

Whether that happens is not yet known.

"After 14 years of dedicated service to the **House** of Representatives, we thought we would get a plaque of distinction," Dimopoulos said. "Not a letter of termination."

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Pelosi Instructs House to Hire Wounded War Vets

Emily Yehle
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The **House** will have more wounded veterans working among its ranks within the next year if **Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** is able to pull off an ambitious plan.

Beard hopes to develop a program that would match wounded veterans with **House** jobs by March 1.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) sent Beard a letter Wednesday directing him to start the process, a tall order because some 7,000 of the **House's** 10,000 jobs are in individual Members' offices, which do their own hiring.

"It really came about rather quickly," Beard said. "We have to find ways we can get the names and skills and the needs of Members and match that up with wounded veterans."

Beard came up with the idea after sitting down with a lobbyist for the Marine Corps and the commander of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, a group that helps wounded veterans retrain for a new military job or for a private-sector career. At first hoping to simply offer up jobs in his office, Beard quickly moved to considering job possibilities in the entire **House**.

"The more they talked, the more it made sense," he said. "We have jobs here in the **House**. We have all kind of jobs."

Now Beard has the support of Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and **House** Administration Chairman Robert Brady (D-Pa.), who also signed the letter.

The Members called for a program for "severely wounded veterans," a term Beard said means those who have long-term injuries, such as a missing limb, and can't return to the front lines.

The letter does not lay out any specifics - neither setting hiring goals nor even dictating when the program must start.

But the vision, at least, is grand.

"[W]e would like the U.S. **House** of Representatives to serve as a model for the rest of the nation," read the letter to Beard. "Accordingly, we are directing you to develop, in conjunction with other **House** officers and offices, a career orientation program that will give severely wounded service men and women the opportunity to consider employment by the **House** of Representatives."

Beard said he will be looking at existing programs in state and federal agencies as he works to develop a plan in the next few months. The Virginia Department of Transportation, for example, has a program that locates internships for veterans undergoing rehabilitation, while the Department of Defense's "Hire a Hero" program holds job fairs and helps wounded veterans adapt their military skills to civilian jobs.

Since nothing like this has been done in the **House**, Beard said he isn't sure how the program would work. But he hopes it will be more than just letting wounded veterans know that jobs are available - for example, it might give them preferential treatment. It's not Beard's decision alone. He also will have to work with Members.

"To me, what's historic here is that the Speaker has made it very clear she wants us to lead the nation, to show leadership for the nation," he said. "All the other employers in the United States ought to be hiring wounded veterans."

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CAO to Buy Carbon Offsets for House Today

Emily Yehle
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Every time **House** officials turn on the heat or crank up the air conditioning, the action could be akin to planting a tree, starting a wind energy project or creating a wetland.

At least that's the idea of carbon offsets - and it's an integral part of how the **House** plans to be carbon-neutral by December 2008. But Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) questioned the validity of the idea Friday in a letter to **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard**, after learning that Beard would announce today the purchase of about \$100,000 worth of carbon offsets.

"I have deep concerns about the CAO's intention to use taxpayer dollars to purchase carbon offset credits," Ehlers, ranking member of the **House** Administration Committee, wrote in the letter. "As I have expressed to you directly, using our limited **House** resources for purchases where the measure of return is so dubious makes me very wary."

The purchase of carbon offsets is the first step **House** officials have taken to implement the main components of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) Green the Capitol Initiative. It is supposed to make up for the 24,000 tons of carbon that will be emitted this year to keep **House** buildings running. That's down from 91,000 tons, most of which will be cut through other methods.

"For us, this event is a fundamental component of our strategy to make the operation of the **House** of Representatives carbon-neutral," Beard said. "That's why it's so important."

Despite Ehlers' concerns, Beard is not backing down; buying carbon offsets, he said, is the only way to fulfill the Speaker's pledge of making the **House** carbon-neutral by the end of the 110th Congress.

"There is a debate about it. I'm not in the business of holding those debates," he said. "It's the best that we have and that is what I am going to do."

The **House** is buying the offsets on the Chicago Climate Exchange, a market-based system that allows members to buy and sell carbon offsets. The \$100,000 will go to those who have accumulated carbon offsets, ostensibly because of a project that helped the environment.

It's one of three benchmarks for the Green the Capitol Initiative, which also stipulated that the **House** pay for renewable power for electricity use and that the Capitol Power Plant switch a percentage of its fuel from coal to natural gas.

While those two steps will greatly reduce the **House's** carbon emissions, it still leaves 24,000 tons that officials say simply can't be eliminated so quickly.

But Ehlers thinks the CAO should wait to buy the offsets until the Government Accountability Office completes a report on carbon offset markets - a report that originally was requested by Reps. Tom Davis (R-Va.) and Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) in May because of questions surrounding the Energy Policy Act. Ehlers later asked to be added as a co-requester. It's expected to be released sometime this spring, plenty of time before the December 2008 deadline, said Salley Collins, Ehlers' spokeswoman.

"Why not wait? Why not wait until we get a GAO assessment of carbon offsets?" she said, later adding in an e-mail that without the report "there is no guarantee that we'll have anything to show for this but a few headlines and a bill for \$100K, charged to the American Taxpayer."

Beard argued that the plan has gone through all the required steps. Companies such as Ford and IBM use the Chicago Climate Exchange, he said, and he is confident that the money will go to beneficial projects.

"Why wait?" he said. "Global warming is not going to wait, why should we wait?"

The **House** Administration Committee approved the plan this summer but didn't do any extensive research on the subject, said Kyle Anderson, spokesman for Chairman Robert Brady (D-Pa.). But Brady fully supports

the efforts to green the Capitol, he said, and the committee found that Beard's recommendation for buying carbon offsets supported that goal.

"We have not done any in-depth research into CCX and whether it's the best place to buy carbon offsets," Anderson said. But "we know that it's a generally accepted process."

Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) has pushed carbon offsets as a solution throughout efforts to green the Capitol. The Chicago Climate Exchange is the most respected organization in the nation for exchanging carbon offsets, he said, because of a system that provides third-party oversight of projects and exchanges.

"We're going to be moving the whole country in this direction," he said. "It's a great feather in the cap of this market."

After buying the offsets through CCX much like in a stock market, the **House** will retire all the offsets it buys, said Perry Plumart, deputy director of the Green the Capitol office. And all those offsets will be from domestic sellers, ensuring that the **House** is specifically supporting greening projects in the United States.

"We're a political institution," Kirk said. "It just makes common sense to back American markets first."

Funding for the Green the Capitol Initiative is tied up in the legislative branch appropriations bill, which hasn't yet made it to the Senate floor. That budget includes \$520,000 to purchase power generated from renewable sources and \$2.7 million to switch to natural gas. In fact, the **House** won't even be able to pay the \$100,000 for the carbon offset exchange until that bill goes through; in the meantime, the Chicago Climate Exchange will give Congress an invoice.

This is simply spending taxpayer money for an unproven result, Collins said. She pointed to a Congressional Research Service memo written in June that outlines the negatives and positives of the carbon offset system. It says the quality of offsets may vary considerably because there are no commonly accepted standards.

But the Department of Energy doesn't seem to share those concerns. Last week, it lauded Beard for his work on making the **House** carbon-neutral. The DOE has helped the **House** throughout its efforts, Beard said.

"We went to them as we were developing our plan," Beard said. "They really helped us map out our strategy."

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A Section

Capitol to Buy Offsets in Bid to Go Green; Republicans, Researchers Question System's Effectiveness in Easing Global Warming

Jonathan Weisman
Washington Post Staff Writer
686 words
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English

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Daniel Beard, the **House's chief administrative officer**, will cut a taxpayer-funded check today for \$89,000 to buy credits that will offset the impact of 30,000 tons of carbon belched into the atmosphere by the U.S. Capitol's antiquated, coal-burning power plant every year.

That is not much -- out of a \$2.7 trillion federal budget -- to strike a blow against climate change, but Republicans are hot under the collar about it precisely because they are not sure it will do anything about global warming.

"This could be nothing more than a \$100,000 press conference," steamed Salley Collins, spokeswoman for the **House** Administration Committee, which oversees Beard's activities.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) vowed this year to make the gleaming sandstone-and-marble Capitol "green" by the end of 2008. Shutting down the only coal-burning power plant in the District of Columbia is a priority, Beard says. But with powerful coal-state lawmakers protecting it, deep-sixing the plant will not be easy.

Buying pardons for its offenses is, however, thanks to the growing market for carbon offsets. You simply turn over some money, and the offsetters promise to absolve your sins by putting it to use on green technologies, planting trees, pumping carbon dioxide underground and the like.

But the carbon-offset trade is only as good as the offsetters' word and the market's police force. Beard will make his purchase on the Chicago Climate Exchange, which administers a voluntary cap-and-trade system, in which North American participants pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Companies that reduce more than their pledge can sell their good deeds on the market to those, like the U.S. Capitol, who are not doing so well. Projects claiming carbon-saving efforts can sell their gains on the exchange as "carbon financial instruments."

Beard said he looked into investing the money directly into projects that reduce greenhouse gas concentrations, but he did not want to be in the position of favoring one technology over another.

Republicans are not the only ones questioning whether the system works. A tree planted to swallow carbon dioxide is only an offset as long as it does not get cut down. Carbon dioxide that is "sequestered" -- pumped into the ground -- spares the air only as long as it stays put.

"Voluntary offsets are of limited value to solve the increasing threat of climate change," warned researchers at Tufts University last year. "They should not be seen as a way to buy 'environmental pardons.' "

An advocacy group, Clean Air-Cool Planet, said last year that the carbon financial instruments on sale at the Chicago Climate Exchange may actually be undercutting the carbon-offset market because it is becoming difficult to judge whether such credits represent any real greenhouse gas reductions.

"What can I say? I just disagree," Beard said. "Obviously, this is an emerging marketplace, but it's a marketplace of the future, and the Capitol is leading. My question is, why wait?"

In May, Reps. Thomas M. Davis III (R-Va.) and Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) asked the Government Accountability Office to review the growing carbon-offset industry, a study that should be completed by April. In July, Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers (R-Mich.), the Administration Committee's ranking minority member and a physicist, personally asked Beard to hold off purchasing the credits until the GAO reports back. On Friday, Ehlers dashed off another letter to Beard, urging delay.

"Using our limited **House** resources for purchases where the measure of return is so dubious makes me very wary," Ehlers wrote.

But the purchase will go on, complete with a bipartisan celebration today at Chicago's Field Museum.

"The chairman is supportive of the greening-of-the-Capitol effort and has confidence in Mr. Beard's administration of the program," said Kyle Anderson, spokesman for Administration Committee Chairman Robert A. Brady (D-Pa.).

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Heard On The Hill
Groaning the Capitol

Emily Heil and Anna Palmer
1,160 words
31 October 2007
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Groaning the Capitol. **House** staffers are finding out firsthand what Kermit the Frog has long warned: It isn't easy going green. As part of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) Green the Capitol Initiative, **House** offices have switched to new, recycled printer paper - but although the greener pages are friendlier to the Earth, they're not as nice to its inhabitants, ticking off staffers by jamming

copiers in some offices. One staffer gripes that the thinner recycled paper is causing all kinds of backups in the office printer, frustrating busy aides. "We can't get news clips to the boss," the staffer tells HOH, adding that the copier repairman who came to fix the problem has fielded similar complaints from other **House** offices.

The **House** Office Supply Service, located in the Longworth Building, is where most offices get their supplies, and the shop recently swapped regular paper for a recycled brand called New Leaf.

Jeff Ventura, the spokesman for the **Chief Administrative Officer**, who's in charge of the greening initiative, says the CAO's office hasn't gotten any formal complaints, but he's aware that there are some greening growing pains associated with the switch. "Nobody said avoiding global environmental catastrophe would be hassle-free," Ventura tells HOH.

Besides, he argues, any office-equipment snafus are a small price to pay for a healthier environment.

"While we doubt the new eco-friendly paper is the cause of any copier chaos, as paper jams have been around since copiers were invented, we believe suffering through the trauma of a paper jam is a small sacrifice in the effort to save the planet," he added.

Ventura also notes that the **House** goes through 70 million pages of blank paper every year (gulp) and that the changeover to recycled paper is saving 29,400 grown trees annually.

Tell that to the boss when he wonders where his briefing memos are.

Long Live the Kings. In a monarchy, there can be only one king. But since we've got ourselves a democracy, we're practically crawling with Kings - just ask Sports Illustrated writer Peter King, who recently was confused with the Congressman of the same name.

The sportswriter (not the New York Republican) wrote about the recent mix-up in his blog, recounting how a security guard at the Newark airport looked at his New Jersey driver's license and asked him whether he was the Congressman from Long Island. When King said no, the guard appeared unconvinced, he writes.

"A Congressman from New York with a New Jersey ID, in jeans and sneakers with a blue backpack. Hmmmm. That's one perceptive security guy."

But Rep. Peter King says he doesn't mind the confusion. In fact, he tells HOH he's hoping that potential book-buyers might confuse the two of them. Rep. King, who has written three books of his own, thinks the other King is a good writer. "I'm hoping people think he wrote them so they'll buy them," Rep. King said of his own literary efforts.

Rep. King appeared most surprised, though, that his fame had spread "all the way over to New Jersey" from the faraway land of New York, underscoring the wide schism (cultural, of course, not geographic) between the states. "That makes me feel good," he tells HOH.

Coburn: Not Buying You Beer. The Senate's spending hawk for Oklahoma, Tom Coburn (R), isn't afraid to tick people off in his quest to save a few bucks, and he's making no friends among a rather large segment of the population: those who like cheap candy bars, beer and pretzels.

Coburn was bemoaning the low taxpayer-subsidized prices on the snacks and beverages served on Amtrak,

complaining in a Tuesday floor speech that the on-train price for a Milky Way candy bar was only 75 cents. The price for the same item on an airplane is a whopping three bucks, he noted, since airline food costs aren't federally subsidized.

Amtrak shouldn't shift the cost of that tasty - and inexpensive - candy bar or fizzy adult beverage you enjoy while riding the rails, Coburn railed. "Nobody expects when you get on an Amtrak rail passenger service that the rest of us ought to pay for your beer," he said. "Nobody expects that we ought to pay for your Three Musketeers. Yet in essence that's what's happening."

That's MY Amendment! A markup at the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee turned ugly on Tuesday, when the normally unflappable Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) unloaded on fellow panel member Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.). The schooling ensued when Dorgan lashed out at DeMint, accusing him of lifting the text of legislation that he had authored with Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) allowing reimportation of cheaper prescription drugs, and offered it as his own amendment to an unrelated bill.

The run-in happened at a markup on legislation reauthorizing the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The committee had adopted a few noncontroversial amendments before voting to approve it when DeMint came into the committee room. Not understanding that the bill had been passed, he attempted to call a vote on his amendment.

Dorgan was clearly peeved at the move. While copy-cattng a bill without getting approval from its authors might seem trivial, in the Senate, whose unwritten book of etiquette is bigger than Miss Manners', it was a provocation.

Dorgan was relentless, using phrases like "stunning lack of courtesy." Eyebrows in the audience shot up. "It was intense," one audience member tells HOH. "Everyone in the room was grimacing."

At first, witnesses tell HOH, DeMint tried to push back, telling Dorgan that he didn't have a copyright on the issue of reimportation. When Dorgan pointed out that the junior Senator hadn't just used his ideas but actually pirated the exact text of his bill without asking, DeMint appeared contrite. "He apologized a few times, but you got the sense that it was too little, too late," another spy says.

Dorgan also was angered that DeMint had approached Snowe's staff about using the Dorgan-Snowe bill, and even though Snowe had discouraged him from doing so, he did it anyway.

"This is amateur hour at its finest," one senior Democratic aide told HOH. "[DeMint] should be embarrassed by the fact that he was offering an amendment to a bill that was already reported out, but courtesy dictates that he should have given Sen. Dorgan a heads- up."

A spokesman for DeMint similarly was defiant, insisting that Dorgan's anger was unwarranted. "He should be thanking DeMint for trying to move the bill forward to reduce prescription drug prices. After all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," he said.

Please send your hot tips, juicy gossip or comments to hoh@rollcall.com.

Document RLCL000020071031e3av00006

House Staff Get Zipcars, Flexcars

Elizabeth Brotherton

722 words

29 October 2007

Roll Call

English

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House staffers who arrive at work via foot, bus, Metro or train are about to get a new option should they need to run errands or head to a meeting away from Capitol Hill.

Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard is instituting a 90-day pilot program that will bring the vehicle-share companies Flexcar and Zipcar to Capitol Hill.

Four cars - three of them hybrids - are expected to be stationed in the Rayburn **House** Office Building garage, available for **House** staff who do not have immediate access to a vehicle during the workday, said Paul Lozito, director of service management for the CAO.

"This is a great alternative if you don't have a car," Beard said, adding that the program could prompt many staffers who currently drive to work to take public transit.

"Their feeling is, 'If I'm caught in the middle of the day here and I need a car, I don't have one,'" Beard said. "This sort of meets that need."

As Flexcar's Ryan Robertson put it: "We're that 'just in case' scenario."

Instituting a car-share program isn't just for convenience-sake - it was among the recommendations made in the CAO's Green the Capitol Initiative to help improve employee transit options and reduce transportation energy use.

"It's very good for the environment," said Ellice Perez, the regional vice president for Zipcar's Washington, D.C., operations. "To be able to commute in via public transportation or through carpooling is part of what we are trying to accomplish. ... But Zipcar provides some flexibility."

The vehicle-share program will kick off on Thursday, as CAO officials will offer sign-ups at lunchtime in the Rayburn and Longworth cafeterias, Lozito said. Both companies also had sign-up sheets available during the CAO's Green Transportation Expo, which was held Thursday in the Cannon **House** Office Building.

Officials will monitor the usage of the cars and **House** employee experiences over the next three months to decide if vehicle-sharing is something worth keeping on Capitol Hill, Lozito said.

"My guess is, based on the kind of reception they got at the Green expo [Thursday], there are going to be a lot of people who are going to use it," Beard said.

Both companies have cars available throughout the city, including many locations in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. About one-third of the Flexcar fleet is hybrid, Robertson said; about 10 percent of the Zipcar fleet is, according to Perez.

But one advantage that comes with using cars stored in the Rayburn garage is that the police-patrolled **House** office building is safe, Lozito said.

"So if someone brings back a car late at night, or even in the dark now that winter [is coming] upon us, there's safety," Lozito said. "To us, it seems like an ideal place."

Employees also will get a unique advantage if they join the **House** vehicle-share program, according to Robertson.

Staffers, like other Flexcar and Zipcar members, will have access to vehicles in their own community and throughout the D.C. region, Robertson noted. But only **House** employees will have access to the fleet available in Rayburn.

Plus, application fees typically charged by the companies are expected to be waived for **House** staffers,

Robertson said. Employees who check out vehicles will only need to pay the normal hourly rates, which range from about \$5 to \$8 an hour to approximately \$50 a day.

Staffers will need to go through a background check to make sure they are properly licensed and have an acceptable driving record, Lozito said.

"We want to make sure that we can vouch for the people should they have any accidents," Robertson said.

Perez noted that it is often difficult for some people to give up their cars when they first arrive in a city such as the District, but there are advantages to doing so, she said.

Company surveys have found Zipcar users save about \$400 a month when they get rid of their cars. Plus, there are the positive lifestyle changes that come with getting rid of your car.

"You become much more organized, planning for your errands and running to your meetings, because you have a time reserved," she said. "You're much more efficient."

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CAO to Shine New Lights on Capitol Dome

Elizabeth Brotherton

591 words

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Roll Call

English

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Congressional officials are looking to light the Capitol Dome in green.

Well, sort of.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard has put out a solicitation request to vendors asking for design proposals that would modernize the Dome's outdated lighting system. Officials are seeking designs that would enhance the exterior and architecture of the Capitol at night while also incorporating energy-saving lighting designs and sustainability.

The design also must take into account the historical elements of the Capitol, according to the solicitation request.

"The Dome really is known the world over as the symbol of democracy," said Grant Scherling, executive director of the CAO's Green the Capitol office. "We thought, 'What a great opportunity to show leadership in the area of greening.'"

Solicitation submissions are due to the CAO's office by Nov. 19, and officials aren't yet sure how much the project will cost. While they hope to begin actual work sometime early next year, that depends on what happens with the legislative branch appropriations bill, Scherling said.

Changing the way the Capitol complex is lit is a key component of the Green the Capitol Initiative report, which Beard presented to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) earlier this year. About 43 percent of all carbon emissions generated from the complex come from electricity use, the report notes.

To help the **House** become carbon-neutral, the report recommends officials install energy-efficient lighting throughout the complex and evaluate "exterior building lighting to reduce energy use."

The renovation of the Dome's lighting system should meet or exceed industry energy goals and standards, the solicitation reads. Light pollution and sky glow reduction of the lighting of the exterior part of the Dome also must be evaluated.

At the same time, the lighting of the Dome must "create a distinct nighttime profile" of the Capitol that "celebrates its unique identity and elevates the 'sense of place,'" the solicitation reads. Architectural features of the Capitol should be enhanced while minimizing wasted light, and strategies should be developed to "enliven the visual experience of all those who view the U.S. Capitol," according to the solicitation.

Redoing the lighting system is an exciting prospect for greening officials, Scherling said. After all, the Capitol reaches higher into the sky than any other building in D.C. after the Washington Monument.

"When we look at the light scape of the city, the Dome is really important," Scherling said.

The solicitation also lists specific guidelines for lighting the Dome, including developing specific areas of illumination to enhance the Capitol at dusk, night and dawn; defining specific color ranges and palettes; defining acceptable ranges of brightness; and describing the size and degree of light source concealment.

Vendors also should address strategies to minimize the impacts of glare on nearby buildings, energy-efficient light source technology, design innovation and standards, according to the solicitation.

The Architect of the Capitol is in charge of overseeing the preservation of the Dome and, according to the solicitation, would take part in the lighting project. An AOC spokeswoman declined to comment on Wednesday.

"We do not discuss the lighting of the Dome for security reasons," said spokeswoman Eva Malecki.

Other lighting recommendations in the Green the Capitol report include retrofitting ceiling lamps, fixtures and controls to increase energy efficiency; installing and maintaining motion- activated lighting controls in offices, hearing rooms and other parts of the complex; replacing lamps with energy-efficient bulbs; and conducting a high-efficiency ceiling lighting pilot program.

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Beard Turns Green Eye To Congressional Staff

Elizabeth Brotherton

597 words

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Roll Call

English

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With energy-efficient light bulbs being installed throughout the Capitol campus and recycled paper available in Congressional office supply stores, officials are moving to the next phase of their plan to make the Capitol a model of sustainability.

Their focus: Congressional staffers.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard and his Green the Capitol Initiative staff will host a Green Transportation Expo on Thursday, designed to give staffers an idea of how they can reduce carbon emissions on their way to work.

It's the first step in a bigger plan, Beard said in an interview Tuesday, to get people to begin thinking about doing things differently.

"This is a place where there is a routine," Beard said. "There tends to be a pattern to the way things go. ... How do you alter that pattern?"

Staffers' participation is critical for Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D- Calif.) Green the Capitol Initiative to succeed, Beard said. In upcoming months, CAO officials hope each office will appoint someone to take charge of greening issues - or at least have someone on each floor of the **House** office buildings filling the role.

But CAO officials decided to target transportation first because it is one of the more obvious ways to get people to think green. After all, everybody has to get to work somehow.

"We want to open up the staff here, to see the technology that is already here today," said Allison Rodgers, who serves as education and outreach coordinator for the Green the Capitol office.

Rodgers - who spent much of last year campaigning for global warming awareness as Miss Rhode Island - said people often shy away from going green because they are afraid it would require them to dramatically change their daily routine.

For overworked staffers, pushing change could be difficult - but not impossible. Officials just need to tap into staffers' decision-making processes, getting them to think about alternative transportation options should they move to a new apartment, buy a new car or get sick of sitting on the Beltway every morning, Rodgers said.

"They don't have to think about it in the long run," Rodgers said. "Just the short run."

An array of bicycles, hybrid cars, electric vehicles and even a few Segways will be on hand outside the Cannon **House** Office Building on Thursday. Officials hope to show that green alternatives are very diverse - taking the Metro is one option; driving a flashy electric sports car is another.

Meanwhile, inside the Cannon Caucus Room, officials will be on hand from a wide range of groups devoted to helping lower carbon emissions generated from the nation's highways.

Among them: GoLoco, a service that helps people quickly arrange to share rides between friends, neighbors and colleagues via the Internet; Goose Networks, which helps commuters create a network of rideshare partners using the Internet or text messages; and EcoLimo, a chauffeur transportation service whose entire fleet consists of alternative-fueled vehicles.

Other Green the Capitol plans are moving forward, Beard said.

On Nov. 5, officials plan to buy carbon offset credits from the Chicago Climate Exchange. When Restaurant Associates takes over **House** cafeterias in December, several new environmentally friendly policies will be instituted, from getting rid of styrofoam cups to bringing in healthier food.

"It's not a top-down initiative. It's something we all need to take on," Rodgers said. "If no one inside of these buildings, if the 10,000 people working inside here aren't working for sustainability, we aren't going to meet these initiatives."

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CAO Snags 'Great Places to Work' Recognition

Elizabeth Brotherton

528 words

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Roll Call

English

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The Office of the **Chief Administrative Officer** is among the best places to work in Washington, D.C., according to Washingtonian.

The monthly magazine released its biennial list of its 50 "Great Places to Work" today, and included on that list is the CAO. It's a big feat for the **House** office, as history has dictated that most of the employers on the list are from the private sector, officials noted.

"It's well deserved," CAO **Dan Beard** said. "It's nice to be the head of an organization that wins an award like this, and it is really an award to all the people who work here."

Staff relationships, pay and benefits, and employee development all are listed as gauges of how the magazine rates a particular organization's work force culture.

The CAO's teamwork, strong leadership, impressive work flow, team spirit and inclusive environment were given as reasons for the office's selection, according to officials.

Those officials pointed to several changes they've made to the office's personnel policy in the past several years, including increasing leave time for employees.

The office's family and medical leave policy currently provides six weeks of paid leave, and employees without annual sick leave can receive time through a leave-share program.

Another example: CAO employees also receive up to \$500 a month in student loan repayments; a maximum of \$40,000 can be given to each employee.

Beard mentioned two reasons why he thinks the office got the selection - the longevity of the staff and the actual work they do on Capitol Hill.

"You see Members of Congress on a daily basis, and you're interacting with them, and that certainly is something that leads to the longevity of it," he said. "It sounds a little hokey and patriotic, but you have a sense that you are participating in a democracy."

CAO employees first applied for the list via the magazine's Web site in May, said Kathy Wyszynski, a senior adviser to the CAO.

"I thought, 'Well, it's a good opportunity for us to try,'" Wyszynski said. "If we don't make it, at least it sets a benchmark for us."

After the office sent in the initial application, an online survey was sent to a random group of CAO staffers to see "what people think of the place," Wyszynski said. In August, the magazine contacted the CAO to ask clarifying questions.

Officials got word they had been picked on Sept. 17. The selection is positive for the office in a number of ways, Wyszynski said, including recognizing longtime **House** employees whose work is often taken for granted.

"I think it really does elevate them," she said. "It gives them an opportunity to say, 'Here I am in Washingtonian magazine. I work here.'"

But it also can be used as a recruiting tool for the CAO, Wyszynski added. The magazine provides winners with a special seal that can be put on the organization's Web site noting its inclusion on the list.

"Our hope is that people will look at that," she said.

Document RLCL000020071018e3ai0000v

House Day Care Center Gets Top Marks

Elizabeth Brotherton

665 words

15 October 2007

Roll Call

English

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The **House** of Representatives Child Care Center has been awarded the highest level of accreditation under a new, tougher system established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

More than 11,000 preschool programs are accredited by NAEYC, about 8 percent of all programs in the country. But the **House** day care center is among the first, especially among federal facilities, to earn accreditation under the new system, according to officials.

"This is a huge accomplishment for any child care center," said Kim Mahaney, an attorney for the Office of the **Chief Administrative Officer** who took part in the accreditation process. "And the fact that we were one of the first programs in the country to become reaccredited under the new system further reinforces the standard of excellence we have always provided."

Created in 1985, the NAEYC system sets professional standards for early childhood education; to earn accreditation, programs must meet 10 NAEYC program standards.

But NAEYC revised its accreditation process this year, requiring programs to meet about 400 specific criteria, compared with about 100 in previous years, Mahaney said.

The **House** center also had to go through an array of other processes, including a self-study and an in-site, unannounced visit from NAEYC officials, who observed the center to ensure it met the program standards.

Day care officials, including Directors Monica Barnabae and Paige Beatty, spent nearly a year preparing for the accreditation, Mahaney said.

"It was a huge change in how they did business, and a lot of places didn't think they would get reaccredited," Mahaney said. "We didn't really know what would happen."

Undertaking the accreditation process - and doing so well - lets others in the field and potential clients know you rank among the best, said Kathy Wyszynski, an adviser to the CAO.

"There are centers who chose not to do this," Wyszynski said. "You don't have to do this, it's not a requirement. ... But we're very proud."

Accreditation lasts five years, but NAEYC could pop in for an unannounced visit throughout that time, Wyszynski added.

NAEYC requires programs to meet an array of specific criteria ranging from topics such as curriculum to physical environment to health.

The facility met every set of criteria. Broken down into various categories, the center met no less than 80 percent of more specific standards and earned 100 percent marks in the categories of relationships, assessment of child progress, health, and leadership and management.

"We're very happy about it," Mahaney said. "It's huge."

The lower scores came in the categories of curriculum (81 percent), teachers (80 percent) and community relationships (80 percent).

Child center officials consistently are seeking ways for improvement, Mahaney said.

"They're constantly, regardless of NAEYC, striving to improve those scores," Mahaney said of the center's staff. "We are always trying to make those better. I think that's, again, why the center is so excellent."

The Senate Employees Child Care Center also is accredited by NAEYC. Senate child care officials also

went through the recent accreditation process but are still awaiting those results.

The Senate center, originally accredited in 1989, is considered the first federal center to earn NAEYC recognition.

One thing not included in the accreditation process that is perhaps the toughest problem at the center is its waiting list - staffers often wait months to get their child enrolled.

When **Dan Beard** became CAO earlier this year, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) tasked him with studying how officials could potentially cut the waiting time.

Beard commissioned a study on the center, which recently was completed. Officials are waiting to publicly release the results of that study until they are ready to make recommendations on what, if anything, should be changed with the wait-list process.

"We're looking at the report, reviewing it, analyzing it," Wyszynski said, adding that it is not clear when that review process will be finished.

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Capitol Power Plant Turns Green(er) ; Expansion Improves Facility's Cooling Efficiency

Elizabeth Brotherton

740 words

10 October 2007

Roll Call

English

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Ever since Democrats took over Congress at the start of the year, greening efforts have been at the forefront of talks on how best to manage the Capitol complex.

Much of that talk has centered around the Capitol Power Plant, the century-old institution that provides heating and cooling to the Capitol and more than 20 surrounding buildings and also accounts for about 30 percent of Congress carbon dioxide emissions.

But, quietly, the plant has moved toward a greener complexion with the completion of an expansion project designed to regulate temperatures in the complex more efficiently.

Expansion spaces went online in the late spring in the West Refrigeration Plant, built in the 1970s to help chill new Congressional office buildings. The expansion is expected to better provide the chilled water that is used to cool the Capitol complex, said Eva Malecki, a spokeswoman for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, which oversees the plant.

Among the highlights of the expansion, slated to cost \$85 million, are new chillers. Those chillers are more energy efficient than previous equipment that had been serving the campus, some of which was a half-century old, Malecki said.

House Administration Chairman Robert Brady (D-Pa.), whose committee has jurisdiction over the power plant, is pleased that the expansion space is online, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Its development and operation are consistent with efforts to introduce more energy-

efficient equipment and processes to the Capitol and reduce our overall carbon footprint, Brady spokesman Kyle Anderson said.

With the expansion, space at the facility increased by about 16,500 square feet. The project, which began in spring 2003, was designed to increase the chilled water production of the plant by about 23 percent and also enable central operation of the chillers.

As of now, the plant heats and cools about 16 million square feet of space, but it also will need to serve the 580,000-square-foot Capitol Visitor Center when that facility opens next year.

With the installation of the new chillers, the plant is expected to be able to maintain current cooling operations until at least 2025.

Energy reduction efforts have brought carbon dioxide emissions from the power plant down over the past several years. Between fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2006, the facility cut its electricity consumption by 6 percent and fuel energy consumption by 12.3 percent, according to the AOC.

Still, concerns linger about the sustainability of the plant, which greening experts have singled out as a top priority for bringing Congressional carbon emissions down. In fiscal 2006, the plant produced 102,659 metric tons of emissions, the Government Accountability Office found.

The expansion project predated a report made in conjunction with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) Green the Capitol initiative. The study offered recommendations to make the **House** carbon-neutral by the end of the 110th Congress and also improve the environmental sustainability of chamber operations.

Thus, the power plant expansion did not factor into the initial evaluation or the plan, said Jeff Ventura, a spokesman for **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard**, who oversaw the study.

But the report, released in June, did offer a slew of suggestions for improving overall plant operations.

Topping the list was a recommendation to have the plant burn only natural gas, a move that is expected to reduce the plants carbon emissions by 30 percent from 2006 levels. While the **House** has approved \$2.75 million to help initiate the switch, the money remains tied up until the Senate passes the legislative branch appropriations bill.

In the greening report, the CAOs office noted that making the plant as energy efficient as possible will take years to plan, finance and implement. It called for Congress to take an active role, with committees that oversee Congressional activities stepping up and reviewing how to best run the facility.

But in the meantime there are other steps the plant can take to reduce its carbon impact, the report noted.

For example, reducing boiler steam pressure output and monitoring energy-efficiency performance can improve steam production efficiency at the plant. Steam and chilled water distribution systems can be improved by upping maintenance on steam traps, adjusting steam delivery pressures to follow heat load requirements in Capitol buildings and determining the need for new insulation of distribution lines, which would reduce heating and cooling losses.

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CR Puts Greening Effort on Hold

Elizabeth Brotherton

778 words

1 October 2007

Roll Call

English

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The effort to make the **House** of Representatives carbon neutral by the end of the 110th Congress has hit a roadblock the Senate.

Today was supposed to be the day that the **House** began supplying 100 percent of its electricity needs through renewable power sources. The cost premium to purchase power generated from renewable sources is \$520,000 money included in the fiscal 2008 appropriations bill.

While the measure passed the **House** in June, its companion legislation lingers in the Senate, preventing **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** from kick-starting the renewable energy effort.

Until the president signs the approps bill, we dont have the money, CAO spokesman Jeff Ventura said Friday. So all that renewable energy is on hold, deadlines be damned.

Today's deadline is set in the Green the Capitol Initiative, which Beard presented to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in June.

(Today is also the first day of the fiscal year. Most federal programs and agencies now are operating under a continuing resolution that keeps fiscal 2007 funding levels in effect.)

The greening initiative seeks to make **House** operations carbon neutral by the end of the 110th Congress, reduce the carbon footprint of the **House** by 50 percent in 10 years and make the **House** a model of sustainability.

Renewable energy sources, such as wind, water and solar power, come from resources that cannot be depleted. These sources have been shown to produce fewer greenhouse gases and other pollutants compared to fossil fuels.

Purchasing renewable power for electricity use is a component of the three-part plan to make the **House** carbon neutral by the end of 2008. The other methods involve using natural gas to operate the Capitol Power Plant and purchasing carbon offsets from the Chicago Climate Exchange.

While the Capitol Power Plant produces the steam used to heat and cool the Capitol complex, Congress purchases its electricity needs from local distributor Pepco.

That electricity is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions generated from the operations of the **House**.

The chamber uses about 103,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year. Approximately 43 percent of the 91,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions produced by the **House** come from electricity, according to the greening report.

But by using power generated from renewable sources, the **House** buildings are expected to eliminate 57,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to removing 11,000 cars from the road, according to the report.

CAO and Architect of the Capitol officials already have prepared the contract with Pepco to use wind power to keep things up and running, according to Perry Plumart, deputy director of the CAOs Green the Capitol office.

(Officials went with wind power because in the mid-Atlantic region, water and solar power are not easy to find, Plumart explained.)

This is something they can do for us relatively easily, Ventura said. But this is costly upfront.

Although the startup takes money, officials have predicted the **House** will save dollars in the long run because the **House** is implementing energy conservation plans.

Doing these kinds of things makes good business sense, Plumart said. Its good for the taxpayers and its good public policy.

While electricity needs generate the bulk of the chambers carbon dioxide emissions, coal burned at the Capitol Power Plant adds to the problem. The plant currently uses a mix of coal, oil and natural fuel, depending on which energy source is the most affordable at any given time.

About one-third of the emissions generated on Capitol Hill come from the power plant. In fiscal 2006, the plant produced 102,659 metric tons of emissions, according to a Government Accountability Office report released earlier this year.

The CAOs green report estimates that switching to natural gas would eliminate more than 10,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and reduce more than 95 percent of sulfur oxides and 50 percent of nitrogen oxides emitted by the plant.

The cost to switch from coal and oil to natural gas in fiscal 2008 is listed as \$2.75 million in the greening report. That money too has been included in the appropriations bill, and it too lingers until the measure becomes law, Plumart said.

Even if the first two recommendations are implemented, the **House** still would produce 24,000 tons of carbon emissions. To offset those emissions, Beard is recommending that carbon credits be purchased through the Chicago Climate Exchange program, which would use the money specifically for environmental projects in the United States.

The paperwork is being prepared for that effort and offsets are expected to be purchased later this month, Ventura said.

Document RLCL000020071001e3a100004

CVC Watch

It's no secret that in most offices on Capitol Hill, things can get pretty crowded [Derived Headline]

Elizabeth Brotherton

608 words

25 September 2007

Roll Call

English

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It's no secret that in most offices on Capitol Hill, things can get pretty crowded.

Congress' lack of office space is one of the reasons that Members decided to spend an additional \$70 million to expand the Capitol Visitor Center, creating an additional 85,000 square feet for hearings, offices and storage.

But the CVC also will offer those who cover the goings-on of Congress a little more room as well, both for office space and a fresh place for filming.

Broadcast reporters are expected to use the space overlooking the Great Hall (which is expected soon to be named Emancipation Hall) to do stand-ups and interviews.

Located just past the CVC's entrance zones, the space is situated just above the hall and will provide a fresh view of the Capitol Dome as well as shots of visitors below and statues moved from the Capitol itself.

Policy and procedure issues remain at the CVC, so the final tenant list has yet to be decided. But one of the known spaces is for the Senate Recording Studio. When the studio moves to the CVC, it will be able to upgrade to a full high-definition facility and implement a number of other improvements.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Terrance Gainer oversees duties at the recording studio. When he testified before appropriators earlier this year, he said the studio is expected to hire two new employees and move most of its staff to the CVC once it opens.

As with much of the CVC itself, work in the recording studio is nearly complete. As for the rest of the Senate expansion area - which also will include storage space for the Senate Gift Shop and curators office and facilities for the closed captioning service - much of its space will remain unoccupied to allow for future expansion needs.

Meanwhile, on the **House** side, expansion space will open up as studio space for the **House** Radio/Television Gallery.

In his appropriations request, **Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** asked for funds to pay the salary of one new full-time employee to oversee that gallery.

Construction is nearly complete at the entire CVC facility - officials estimate actual building work is about 97 percent finished.

Crews are focused on cleanup work and have already completed cleanup in the CVC entrance zones, the Exhibition Hall, the restaurant, the upper level east and west lobbies and several corridors and stairwells.

Two CVC-related hearings will be held today. The first, scheduled for 10 a.m. in Room 2358 in the Rayburn **House** Office Building, is the monthly CVC oversight hearing sponsored by the **House** Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.

Those scheduled to testify include acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers, CVC Project Executive Bernard Ungar, AOC Fire Marshal Kenneth Lauziere and Terrell Dorn, the director of physical infrastructure issues for the Government Accountability Office.

The second hearing, set for 2 p.m. in Room 2253 Rayburn, will be a hearing on the bill that would officially change the name of the CVC's Great Hall to Emancipation Hall, in honor of the slaves who helped build the Capitol.

Sponsored by Legislative Branch Subcommittee ranking member Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.) and Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.), the bill shouldn't having any trouble passing - as of Monday, a bipartisan group of 227

Members had signed on as co-sponsors.

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), who chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, introduced companion legislation in that chamber.

Document RLCL000020070926e39p00003

NEWS

Records linked to former DeLay aide subpoenaed

Associated Press
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21 September 2007
Houston Chronicle
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12
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WASHINGTON - A federal grand jury has subpoenaed **House** records connected to a one-time aide to former **House** Majority Leader Tom DeLay who has been caught up in the Jack Abramoff influence-peddling scandal.

The subpoena involving Ed Buckham was issued to the **chief administrative officer** of the **House** by a grand jury in Washington. Notice of the subpoena was read on the **House** floor Thursday in accordance with **House** rules, but it didn't mention Buckham's name.

A **House** official said that the subpoena sought payroll records and e-mails written by Buckham when he was DeLay's chief of staff. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue with reporters.

Buckham's attorney Laura Miller did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Buckham is a key figure in the Justice Department's investigation of DeLay, a Texas Republican. He left DeLay's office in 1998 and started his own lobbying business, Alexander Strategy Group, where DeLay's wife once worked.

Buckham's firm was tied to Abramoff, receiving referrals from Abramoff's office. Buckham also accompanied DeLay and his wife on a Scotland golfing trip in 2000 that was partly paid for by Abramoff.

Document HOU0000020070922e39I000c2

GOP Accuses Beard Of Rules Infraction

Elizabeth Brotherton

1,041 words

20 September 2007

Roll Call

English

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Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard potentially broke **House** rules and damaged the reputation of **House** officers when he assigned a staffer to work for the Natural Resources Committee earlier this year, according to Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.).

Ehlers, the **House** Administration Committee's ranking member, sent Beard a letter Wednesday chiding him for appointing David Tiscione, who was hired as a special assistant to the CAO, to do work for the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans.

The CAO is a nonpartisan officer of the **House**, and as such, writes Ehlers, should not be sending his employees to do politically driven work on either the Democratic or Republican side of any committee.

Tiscione did typical committee tasks during his time with Resources, including drafting memos and floor statements, conducting research and preparing committee reports, according to the letter.

"The detailing of Mr. Tiscione by the CAO to the majority staff of a **House** committee was in contravention to the traditional interpretation of rules and regulations of the **House**," Ehlers writes. "It was not consistent with the expectations of transparency, accountability and professionalization that this Committee has for the officers of the **House**."

Copies of the letter were sent to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) and **House** Administration Chairman Robert Brady (D-Pa.).

"Clearly, this is very troubling," Ehlers told Roll Call. "We simply can't have the officers of this institution violating rules of the **House**, whether knowingly or unknowingly."

In a statement released Wednesday, Beard's office said it appreciated the correspondence from **House** Administration on personnel issues.

"We are firmly committed to offering the maximum amount of administrative support to all Members of the **House**," the statement reads. "We will continue to work closely with the Committee on **House** Administration to most appropriately fulfill our mission of service to the entirety of the **House** community."

Tiscione is the son of Frank Tiscione, the superintendent of **House** office buildings. He was hired as a 90-day temporary employee for a pro-rated gross salary of \$30,313, according to an April 27 appointment memorandum obtained by Roll Call. Tiscione was to be "assigned special projects during his employment with the CAO," the document reads.

For his part, Brady defended Beard in a letter sent to Ehlers on Wednesday afternoon. The chairman writes that he spoke to Beard about the Tiscione appointment and is confident that no laws or rules were broken.

"Mr. Tiscione was brought on board with the CAO's office as much for his own summer education as the needs of the CAO," Brady writes. "The fact that Mr. Beard offered him an opportunity to see the internal workings of a **House** committee as well as the CAO's own operations is consistent with this practice, and with the practice of many **House** offices."

Brady adds that he believes the CAO will not take a similar action in the future. But Ehlers spokeswoman Salley Collins said questions still remain.

"We are curious to know specifically what Mr. Tiscione contributed to the CAO's mission of overseeing **House** operations while working at the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans," she said.

House Administration maintains oversight of the chamber's officers, including the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms. The duties of the **House** officers require that they maintain political impartiality, Ehlers writes.

Tiscione's appointment "circumvented established internal oversight controls" and threatens the CAO's "reputation of political impartiality," Ehlers continues.

"Further, it is inconsistent with appropriations law that stipulates that the funds appropriated to the CAO are provided for purposes necessary to carry out the CAO's mission," Ehlers writes.

Beard also earned the ire of other **House** Republicans. According to one GOP leadership aide, several Members have complained that Beard has not been doing his job properly, which is typically described as keeping the trains running on time.

For example, there have been repeated problems with the chamber's e-mail servers, the aide said.

"This seems to be the latest in a string of rather negligent and unseemly management decisions, and it gives additional credence to the widely held belief that he was installed in the job solely because of his political bona fides," the aide said.

Beard's role in the **House** has been controversial since he was appointed by Pelosi early this year.

Several Republicans, including Ehlers, took to the **House** floor voicing concerns that Pelosi did not invoke the same search process that was used to find Jay Eagen, the previous CAO. Still, the **House** voted to make the appointment official on Feb. 15.

Republicans made another fuss in June, when Beard appeared on the **House** floor during a debate on a California water project. Beard, a one-time Democratic staff director of the then-**House** Interior Committee in the early '90s, said in June he was on the floor to explain the Green the Capitol Initiative to a Member.

Among those who sounded the horns after that floor appearance was Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), who noted that Beard spent years working on resource issues before becoming CAO.

Nunes said Wednesday he wasn't surprised by the concerns listed in the Ehlers letter.

"This is the same song, different verse," Nunes said. "The same thing is going on, and that is, this guy is supposed to be the officer of the **House**, make sure the lights are on. And he's playing politics."

It is unclear whether the Natural Resources Committee potentially broke any **House** rules.

Committee offices are allowed to share employees, according to the **House** committee handbook. But "employees may not be shared with a committee office and the office of an Officer of a **House** if the employee, in the course of duties for an officer, has access to the financial information, payroll information, equipment account information or information systems either of Member, committee or Leadership offices."

The pay from each employing authority must reflect the duties actually performed for each, the handbook reads. Shared employees do not count against the committee's staff ceiling, the handbook also stipulates.

A spokeswoman for Natural Resources could not be reached for comment by press time.

Document RLCL000020070920e39k0002w

House Security Plan Draws Fire

Elizabeth Brotherton

1,145 words

11 September 2007

Roll Call

English

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If an event similar to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, took place on Capitol Hill today, who would be in charge of the response?

According to one person with intimate knowledge of Congressional security, too many people, who run too many emergency plans.

While praising individual officers, former Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Pickle argued in a recent interview that by allowing non-security officials to take part in emergency operations, Congress is potentially weakening its response capabilities.

"You have many different players on the **House** side who believe they all should have a say," he said. "These people want a role, but they have no experience."

Don Kellaheer, the assistant **House** Sergeant-at-Arms, disagreed with Pickle, arguing that his boss, Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Livingood, is fully confident in the chamber's current emergency response plan.

"He does feel very strongly that he's in charge of the response of any attack," said Kellaheer, pointing out that Livingood was praised for his response after Sept. 11.

"We do have a team here," Kellaheer added. "We're proud of the the team that Mr. Livingood leads."

But Pickle's concern is in the team structure.

In the **House**, responsibility is divided between Livingood and other officers. Then there's the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations, which handles certain aspects of emergency plans.

Meanwhile, all emergency operations in the Senate are managed by that chamber's Sergeant-at-Arms, a position currently filled by former Capitol Police Chief Terrance Gainer.

Differences in Structures

The centralized Senate and the decentralized **House** are different institutions and thus differences are necessary in their response plans, a Democratic leadership aide noted.

"The Senate only has a Secretary of the Senate and a Sergeant-at-Arms," the aide said. "We have a CAO, a Clerk, a Sergeant-at-Arms and an Office of Emergency Planning and Preparedness. Just by the way the institutions are set up, there are differences."

It is important to mimic day-to-day functions as much as possible during an emergency, argued Rob Noll, the director of business continuity and disaster recovery for the **Chief Administrative Officer**. If things are changed during a disaster, the response could be ineffective, Noll said.

But Pickle argued that civilian officers, who are not specifically trained in security issues to begin with, should have minimal responsibilities when it comes to security issues.

"I don't deny that the officers in the **House** shouldn't meet with the **House** Sergeant-at-Arms," Pickle said. "They should meet ... but there has to be one boss."

Pickle praised Livingood's capabilities, noting he served in the Secret Service for more than 30 years. Pickle's concern is that players on the **House** side who want a say in security matters are getting one - even if they are not qualified.

"Personalities in the **House** are very strong," Pickle said. "If a personality is strong enough, he may assume the mantle of leadership."

When former Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) served as Majority Leader, he twice brought forth proposals that would create more unified emergency plans across Capitol Hill, Pickle recalled.

Neither proposal ever went anywhere.

"The reality is, as you get further away post-9/11, complacency sets in," Pickle said.

Even if there was a desire to reorganize things, handing over some of the CAO's responsibilities to the Sergeant-at-Arms would be complicated. About 70 percent of the things the Senate security chief is tasked with fall to the CAO in the **House**, current CAO **Dan Beard** noted.

And logistically, the **House** also is a far more complex institution than the Senate, Beard argued. There are 10,000 employees in the **House** - 7,000 who work on Capitol Hill - and there are far more Members.

Beard also noted that **House** officers and other important officials meet regularly to discuss security issues, hold regular drills and have an array of contingency plans.

"To me, it doesn't matter whether there's one person in charge or 10 people," Beard said. "The question is - are you prepared?"

Initial Responses

For obvious reasons, the Capitol Police would be the first agency on Capitol Hill to respond to any terrorist attack or other major emergency.

It would then be up to Capitol Hill officials to handle the complicated next steps.

The Capitol Police Board, consisting of the Sergeants-at-Arms and the Architect of the Capitol, serves as the link between police and the respective chambers' leadership, Gainer said.

Continuous communication would be set up through telephone, video or some combination, allowing officials to inform the necessary people what's going on, Gainer said.

In the immediate term, the No. 1 priority would be to move everyone to a safe environment, Gainer said.

That requires immediate and likely complicated decision-making: Do you abandon the buildings? Keep people inside? Shut down Congress indefinitely?

"A lot of it is situation-dependent, and depends if Congress is in session," Gainer noted.

The ideal situation on the Senate side would be to have a unified command, Gainer said.

"Too many cooks in the kitchen can make cooking very difficult," Gainer noted. "But not impossible."

On the **House** side, Livingood would stand alongside Gainer and the Architect to deal with security response, Kellaheer said.

The Clerk and CAO would oversee other matters, from chamber operations to legislative services to helping relocating offices, if needed.

"You have the attack, and you have the response to the attack from a security perspective," Kellaheer said. "Then you have the branching out into the continuity of operations."

Leadership in both chambers also would play a role in directing the continuity response.

Ted Van Der Meid, who served as counsel to then-Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), noted that most of the **House** response would fall to the Capitol Police.

Afterward, leadership would make decisions on briefings, the **House** schedule - even relocating if necessary, said Van Der Meid, who now works for the international law firm McKenna Long & Aldridge.

For example, following the 2001 anthrax attacks, many Member offices were moved to the Government

Accountability Office, an effort coordinated by the **House** Administration Committee. While the offices were small, consisting of a Member and minimal staff, it worked.

House officers also planned for a relocation in case the chamber became unusable, Van Der Meid said.

Van Der Meid also noted the importance of bipartisanship, recalling how Hastert worked very closely with then-**House** Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) following both the Sept. 11 and anthrax attacks.

"I felt very confident," Van Der Meid said. "I think the police are light years ahead of where they were on Sept. 11, and I think both the **House** and Senate are able to relocate and function. It isn't easy but it is doable."

Document RLCL000020070912e39b00002

Upholstery Shop Hurt By Mold

Elizabeth Brotherton

734 words

6 September 2007

Roll Call

English

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The **House** upholstery shop has been temporarily shut down after a potentially harmful level of black mold was discovered there.

Officials suspect the mold, specifically identified last week as the airborne fungi penicillium and aspergillus, was caused by water leakage first reported to the Architect of the Capitol by the Chief Administrative Officer 18 months ago.

It is unclear when the substance began to grow in the shop, which is located in a subbasement of the Rayburn **House** Office Building and overseen by the CAO.

Upholstery workers noticed a musky odor lurking in the shop following heavy rainstorms in July, which caused a significant amount of water to leak from the roof.

"We just figured with the water coming in, it was only a matter of time before we'd have a problem," upholsterer Dave Peebler said.

The AOC, which serves as the facilities manager for the Congressional campus, has been working on a major project to replace the waterproofing system on the roofs of the **House** underground parking garages located near the shop, said spokeswoman Eva Malecki. The repairs are nearing completion and should correct the water leaks, Malecki added.

In the meantime, actions will be taken to make repairs to the upholstery shop, including scrubbing down the area, Malecki said.

"Air sampling will be conducted by safety specialists over the next few days to determine if any health hazards exist," she said. "Additional actions will be taken as appropriate."

But the damage has caused the ire of CAO **Dan Beard**, who first saw the mold during a visit to the shop two weeks ago.

Beard recalled: "I looked at the wall, and I saw the streaks, and said, 'What the hell is that?'"

Beard ordered samples of the substance be sent to a lab for analysis. When specialists found that some of those samples showed 10 times the allowable level of penicillium and aspergillus, Beard immediately ordered the six upholstery employees be moved out of the shop.

"It's a potential health hazard," Beard said. "I don't know how big of a health hazard, but I'm not going to take any chances."

Aside from removing the employees, Beard also sent a letter to acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers detailing the closure. Copies of the letter, which was not made public, also were sent to **House** leadership officials and the **House** Appropriations and **House** Administration committees.

And Beard contacted the Office of Compliance, seeking guidance on the mold issue. OOC acting Executive Director Tamara Chrisler confirmed that an inspections process has begun at the site.

Penicillium and aspergillus are a common, natural mold, but subspecies can have some "nasty effects," CAO Safety Coordinator Mike Garrott said.

The substance can cause respiratory issues, particularly in people with a damaged immune system, Garrott said.

"In a contained environment, it's not good for you," he added.

At the upholstery shop on Wednesday, Garrott pointed out where the largest sample of mold had been found. That mold had found a perfect place to grow, located underneath a cabinet that only recently had been removed during a remodeling project.

The remodel efforts, which already have seen some of the facility's cabinets removed and replaced, allowed workers to spot the substance. But the discovery of the mold also has stalled the remodel project - the floor can't be replaced until the mold problem is taken care of, for example.

"It's probably good it happened when it happened, because everything would have been moved in," Peebler noted.

Mold requires three things to grow, Garrott said: the proper medium, standing water and time.

"This was the perfect collision of things," he added. "It doesn't look like much. In fact, in the beginning, we thought it was rust."

The six-person upholstery team should complete its move to nearby offices by Friday, said Carol Swan, the acting director of textiles.

Upholsterers are in charge of upkeep and repair on a range of furniture used in the **House**, from couches in Member offices to chairs used in committee rooms.

Much of the furniture requires historic preservation. Swan pointed to a black couch that had not been reupholstered since 1957.

Beard noted that because the employees are being moved to other offices, the time it takes to complete projects likely will increase.

"We'll reduce productivity for awhile," he said.

Document RLCL000020070906e39600005

Local

HOUSE FRUSTRATES STATE'S FOLEY INQUIRY OFFICIALS WON'T GIVE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS

By BRIAN SKOLOFF The Associated Press

683 words

24 August 2007

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Broward Metro

12B

English

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WEST PALM BEACH

U.S. **House** officials, in rebuffing efforts by Florida investigators to access former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley's congressional computers, said they found no sexually explicit photos in e-mails they reviewed, according to a letter obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

The July 24 letter by **House** Deputy General Counsel Kerry Kircher was a response to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's request for information, though the FDLE is interested in more than whether Foley sent or received e-mails with inappropriate images.

Foley, a Florida Republican, resigned from Congress on Sept. 29 after being confronted with the computer messages he sent to male teenage pages who had worked on Capitol Hill. The FDLE said this week its investigation into whether Foley tried to seduce underage boys has been hindered because neither Foley nor the **House** will let its investigators examine his congressional computers.

The **House** Office of the **Chief Administrative Officer**, which provides computer support for congressional members, has reviewed some of Foley's e-mail traffic before his Sept. 29 resignation, according to Kircher's letter to the FDLE.

No graphic images were discovered in those e-mails, according to the letter to the FDLE. It was not immediately clear when those e-mails were sent or received, but officials said they could date back years.

The U.S. Department of Justice, which is working with FDLE investigators, has requested that the **House** review the e-mails for any written communications that may be relevant to the Foley case.

The e-mails being examined, however, do not include all of Foley's communications through his **House** account. Some may have been deleted from the main congressional computer server, which was searched, but would likely still be accessible from an examination of the actual computers, which were not searched. Foley has refused access, citing congressional privilege.

Kircher wrote that because the data "may contain legislative information that is constitutionally privileged ... and because Mr. Foley has not waived that privilege ... we cannot simply give you access."

State investigators believe the computers themselves may contain information relevant to their case that is not revealed in the e-mails, such as Web sites Foley visited or other data stored on the hard drive.

FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey said Thursday that Foley's attorneys have provided the FBI with some data from the computers but were still refusing full access.

The FBI referred questions to the Justice Department. Justice spokeswoman Jaclyn Lesch declined to comment.

Foley and his attorneys must review all the data on the computers and provide authorities with any information he does not deem privileged. If authorities aren't satisfied, they could ask a judge to review the material and order its release.

Foley's attorneys did not immediately return a telephone message on Thursday.

FDLE said it hoped to conclude its investigation into Foley next week. While his attorneys have insisted he never had inappropriate contact with minors, a crime still may have been committed under Florida law if Foley is simply found to have seduced or attempted to seduce anyone under 18 using lewd or explicit language.

The privilege cited by the **House** dates back 200 years, said Stanley Brand, a Washington defense attorney who served as **House** counsel from 1976 to 1984. It basically says that materials generated by members of Congress in their official capacity may be deemed privileged and considered work product, and therefore secret.

"It's in the Constitution. The framers put it in there to protect Congress, but it's not to personally protect the behavior of anyone specific, it's to protect the constituents," Brand said.

The privilege also is intended to protect the separation of powers between the branches of government.

The **House** cannot know what data Foley would claim to be privileged, "only he knows," said Charles Tiefer, a professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law and a former deputy **House** counsel.

Foley

Photo(s)

Document FLSS000020070824e38o00033

Around The Hill

Camp for Capitol Hill Kids ; Program Offers Glimpse of D.C. to Children of House Employees

Emma Dumain

887 words

1 August 2007

Roll Call

English

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On Monday morning, as parents scrambled around the Capitol preparing for one last push before recess, many of their children sat around a conference table in the Cannon **House** Office Building drawing pictures and talking about what laid in store

for this week's activities.

"We're going to the Pentagon!" 6-year-old Adelaide Elliot-Joy said with elation. "And the Capitol!"

"I come here a lot of times when I'm sick," 8-year-old Katie Kaelin said.

"I came here with my dad on my birthday," 8-year-old Austin Hodges added. "We went to the cafe."

Don't confuse this scene with the standard affairs at the **House** of Representatives Child Care Center. This is the beginning of what could be a whole new feature of the Congressional experience: summer camp for the children of **House** employees.

Orchestrated by the **House** Office of the **Chief Administrative Officer** and based on an idea by Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-Mo.), a weeklong summer enrichment program will take more than 20 children, ages 6-14, around Washington, D.C. - to monuments, museums and government buildings - to expand their understanding of and appreciation for what their parents do on the Hill.

The underlying motivations for launching the program are twofold. One came out of Clay's desire to give his children something to do during the day when they came to visit from St. Louis. In addition, Clay, who commutes home on the weekends, wanted to spend time with Carol, 14, and Will, 7, while also showing them a slice of his world.

"I was a Congressional brat growing up, so I was always very familiar with the Capitol," said Clay, whose father and namesake also was a Democratic Congressman from Missouri's 1st district. As he spoke in an office filled with family photographs, Carol and Will sat in an adjoining room talking with members of his staff. "I want my kids to know the police, the staffers, the people who work here, my colleagues.

"It's great for kids to be associated with the building, getting familiar with it, building

relationships throughout their lives," Clay continued. "Plus it gives kids the chance to be close to their parents."

Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard said he was drawn to the idea of a summer program because it fell so closely in line with his mission to make the Capitol more "family-

friendly."

"With so many people working here, it really is like a family," Beard said. "The more we can provide a family-friendly workplace and good benefits for employees, the better."

Beard hopes that next year the program can be expanded to six weeks and take on a wider range of activities. This year's weeklong pilot program will be used to determine what worked and what didn't, how much funding would be required for an extended term and other logistics. He also emphasized that the program is aimed at including children of parents who fill different types of roles in the **House**, from CAO gift shop manager and historical preservation curator to reading clerk and Member of Congress.

A full week of activities, including a trip to the White **House** and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, kicked off on Monday with a guided tour of the Capitol and a meeting with the Capitol Police, complete with bomb squad and canine demonstrations.

As the kids followed their guide through the building's twists and turns, their memories and associations with their lives in the Capitol kept bubbling to the surface. In the Speaker's dining room, one young girl raised her hand and exclaimed, "When I was little they let us eat graham crackers in there!" When told that the Speaker's Gallery was for authorized persons only, another girl asked, "Could my mom go here?"

Will Clay, who for the most part was quiet during the tour, had eyes that constantly were moving around the space, absorbing the sights. He's been in the Capitol many times before, his father said: When he goes to vote, he takes Will to the floor and lets his son put his card in the slot.

While his co-campers were enthralled with the whispering gallery, Will was most excited by the subway ride between buildings: "I've been on it a bunch of times with my dad."

Asked what his father did on the Hill, Will replied, "I don't know, but he's a Congressman."

Beard laughed when he heard the anecdote: "I've always worked around here. When I'd go home at the end of the day and try to talk to my kids about my job, they'd say, 'Boring!' But when my granddaughter, who's 2 years old, went on the subway, her eyes were as big as saucers.

"How many kids have this kind of opportunity?" he continued. "When I was growing up, the Capitol was just a picture in a book. These kids get to live history. They may only be 8 or 9 years old, but all this sinks in ... they understand it. They get that what their moms and dads do is important."

Document RLCL000020070801e3810003a

Architect Has Long August To-Do List

Elizabeth Brotherton

811 words

1 August 2007

Roll Call

English

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With just three days to go before Congress breaks for its annual August recess - if all things go as scheduled, anyway - Congressional staffers are looking forward to a few weeks of downtime.

But for the people on Capitol Hill charged with keeping the campus in tiptop shape, August is the month to do the big jobs that can be done only when Members are not around, or, in some cases, to just make sure the trains keep running on time.

Perhaps the biggest project scheduled to take place during the next month is the annual inspection and resealing of the Capitol Dome, a task expected to kick off today.

Overseen by the Architect of the Capitol, the effort will involve inspecting the joints in the exterior shell and interior surfaces of the Dome, from the base of the Statue of Freedom to the cornice below the Beltcourse level.

According to AOC spokeswoman Eva Malecki, the Dome's joints will be cleaned and resealed, ensuring that the umbrella over the Rotunda remains watertight. The process will take four weeks.

Meanwhile, AOC personnel will be working on the outside shell, supported by safety lines, so people on the ground will probably spot workers atop the Capitol.

It isn't the first time the AOC has undertaken routine maintenance on the Dome.

The Architect finished the first phase of its Dome rehabilitation program in 2000 and a year later performed an interim repainting. The AOC also inspected and resealed the Dome's joints in 2003, 2005 and 2006.

Meanwhile, the AOC was scheduled Tuesday to wrap up its cleaning of the Statue of Freedom, a process that lasted throughout most of July.

The AOC also will undertake non-Dome projects in August - the bulk of its regular work will continue as if Congress was still in session.

Efforts to wrap up the ongoing Capitol Visitor Center project for its now-likely November 2008 opening are perhaps paramount. (See story, p. 1.) But AOC workers will undertake a number of general projects throughout the Capitol complex, such as painting, cleaning, conservation and sidewalk replacement.

"These are just one to two day projects much like we do the rest of the year," Malecki said.

While workers at other Capitol Hill agencies might not be swinging from ropes on the Dome during August, many will keep busy with other projects and events.

For **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** and his staff, August is not all that different from when Congress is in session, according to spokesman Jeff Ventura.

"The CAO is busy during recess," he said. "It's not like we go away. ... We're a 24/7, 365-days-a-year operation."

The CAO will spend the upcoming weeks moving ahead on projects that began earlier this year. Perhaps most notable will be efforts to implement the Green the Capitol Initiative, which was formally presented to the public on June 21.

"We're now in the process of trying to figure out how we actually move forward with the proposed action items in the plan," Ventura said. "There's a lot of thinking going on right now."

There also are plans in the works to move forward on two other studies commissioned by the CAO earlier

this session.

One, conducted by the firm Watson Wyatt Worldwide, is an industry comparison of **House** employee benefits. The study is expected to be completed in August, with officials getting to work on implementation soon after, Ventura said.

The other study looks at how to improve the waiting list for admission to the **House** day care center.

"We're going to get that back and take a hard look at what we can do to act on their suggestions," Ventura said.

Over at the Government Printing Office, employees will not be able to take the entire month as free time - the agency still must print the Federal Register and keep up on its passport production, among other responsibilities.

But because it does not have to print the Congressional Record, the GPO will get a chance to focus on other things during August, according to spokesman Gary Somerset.

"We use this time for comprehensive training for our employees," Somerset said, adding that the training covers a wide range of topics, from policy to equipment use.

The recess will serve as a time to say goodbye to an old friend at the Library of Congress.

The agency is scheduled to end the decade-long run of its "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" exhibit on Aug. 18 so workers can begin construction on the LOC's upcoming visitor center.

To mark its closing, the Library will keep the exhibit open until 8 p.m. on Aug. 7, enabling staffers to visit it one last time, according to LOC spokesman Matt Raymond.

Document RLCL000020070801e38100030

Senate Day Care Alters Wait List Rules

Elizabeth Brotherton

1,178 words

17 July 2007

Roll Call

English

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New guidelines have been enacted at the Senate Employee Child Care Center to give children of Senate employees a leg up in the admissions process, which can see families wait more than a year for an open spot.

Although the center is frequently cited as a model day care provider, some Senate employees have complained that the facility does not prioritize children of Senate workers in its admission process as strongly as it should.

Under the new policy, which was enacted in May, children of non-Senate employees will not receive higher priority than those whose parents do work for the Senate, according to a senior member of the center's board of directors.

"I think that the board made a sound family planning decision in trying to better meet the needs of the Senate community and our membership," the board member said. "We've taken meaningful steps to change the enrollment process to give Senate families priority."

Now, siblings of a child enrolled in the center whose parents work in the Senate (or the day care center) are offered first admission.

Children of Senate and Senate day care workers get next dibs, followed by siblings of a child enrolled in the facility but whose parents work in another entity of the legislative branch and then children whose parents work in the legislative branch.

Siblings of a child already enrolled in the center but whose parents are not employed by the legislative branch are next, with children whose parents do not work in the branch getting last priority.

"It made it so that non-Senate siblings no longer get a preference above Senate staff," the board member said.

But the new policy isn't without some controversy.

Some Senate parents have noted that parents are still able to keep their children in the center even if they move into the private sector, which differs from a change in policy recently made at the **House** of Representatives Child Care Center.

The **House** center mirrors the Senate's admission policy in that it prioritizes children of **House** employees first, followed by those whose parents work in other legislative branch agencies and then the rest of the federal government, according to **Dan Beard**, the **House's Chief Administrative Officer**.

But there is one key difference.

The **House** recently enacted a policy requiring those who leave their jobs in federal government to find a new facility for their children within 60 days.

"The waiting list was getting too large," Beard explained, adding that the chamber's priority must be for **House** workers.

In the Senate, children are allowed to remain at the facility even if their parents leave the chamber.

The board member defended that policy, arguing that the **House** day care center is one of the few government facilities that has enacted such a requirement.

"We work in such a transitional environment," the board member noted, pointing to the recent death of Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.).

"It is hard to put families in the position of finding child care while also trying to find a job in a 60- to 90-day time period, when waiting lists for under 2 [years of age] are in excess of a year and a half throughout the Washington, D.C., area," she said.

It also can be difficult to pull young children out of a day care program they have become accustomed to and feel safe in, the board member said.

"When children hit six months to about a year and a half, they go through a very strong bonding phase with their caretakers and people they know," she said.

Other Senate parents have complained that the new policy does not apply to non-Senate families who already were on the waiting list. Under the old policy, as long as a child had a sibling at the center, they received high priority.

The board member said many families have been on the list for months.

"To randomly change that process retroactively without fully informing the membership and the Senate community on a moving- forward basis undermines family planning and faith in the process," she said, adding that the concerns of those Senate parents who are still waiting to enroll their children is very understandable.

In February, Senate Rules and Administration Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and ranking member Bob Bennett (R-Utah) asked Secretary of the Senate Nancy Erickson to conduct a study of the center's admission policies.

That study is expected to be completed soon, according to Howard Gantman, a spokesman for the Rules Committee.

"The new admissions policy is an important step in the right direction," Gantman noted.

Other legislative branch agencies also maintain day care facilities, and each has a unique way of admitting children.

At the Little Scholars Child Development Center at the Library of Congress, siblings of children currently enrolled get first preference, followed by children of Library employees, grandchildren of Library employees, children of employees who work in legislative offices, children of employees who work in the federal government and all others.

The Tiny Findings Child Development Center serves the Government Accountability Office - but GAO parents do not necessarily get the highest dibs. Siblings of children enrolled in the center get first priority, followed by scholarship-eligible children, children of Tiny Findings employees, children of GAO and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the USACE maintains offices in the GAO building), the children of other federal workers and the public.

Most child care centers in the Washington region have waiting lists, experts admitted.

Beard noted that the **House** day care waiting list varies depending on age group. It is especially long for children aged 2 and younger, because the infants require more attention than older children.

"We usually can accommodate [parents] if they have a 5-year- old," Beard noted.

The CAO's office also recently signed a contract with the firm ICF International to conduct a study examining ways to decrease - and possibly eliminate - the **House** waiting list, Beard said. The results of that study are expected by August, he added.

The Senate board member also noted that waiting lists for younger children are much longer than their preschool-aged peers.

"Most people get on five to 10 waiting lists for an infant if they are planning to go back to work," she said.

As of May 8, 163 families were on the Senate waiting list, with the bulk trying to get spots for children under 2. That number will fluctuate over the next few months, as center staff prepare to transition children into higher-age programs come fall.

Senate day care officials also are working with the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms and the Rules Committee to develop an online service that will allow parents to monitor their place on the waiting list.

An online waiting list would provide greater transparency to the process, Gantman said. It also would allow parents to ensure the information on the list itself is accurate, the board member noted.

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LETTERS

Green Capitol Not Just Symbolic

256 words

27 June 2007

Roll Call

English

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A recent Guest Observer, "Greening of the Capitol: Congress Leads by Example" (June 25), stated "Key lawmakers understand that going green at the Capitol would provide a powerful symbol of energy independence and freedom."

Speaker Pelosi's plan (the Green the Capitol Initiative) is not just a symbol. It is a real strategy predicated on four months of carefully auditing and assessing the **House's** energy use and determining how our side of the Capitol can attain carbon neutrality in just 18 months.

This is not some pie-in-the-sky concept. When the Speaker approved the roadmap to carbon neutrality by the end of the 110th Congress, she put in place an energy policy for the **House** that will be followed immediately.

Michael Zimmer questioned why Congress should wait until 2020 for all of its 24 buildings to attain carbon neutrality. It's a great question that, four months ago, we asked ourselves, too.

And the **House's** answer to that question is simple: "We're not waiting." Regardless of other legislative deadlines that may require carbon neutrality for federal buildings several years from now, we feel the time is now to implement the plan we worked so hard to craft.

The **House** already has begun "going Green." On June 21, when the Speaker accepted the final Green the Capitol Initiative report, a good plan turned into an even better policy. In the **House**, the wait is over.

Daniel P. Beard

Chief Administrative Officer

U.S. **House** of Representatives

Document RLCL000020070627e36r00035

House Democrats unveil plan for Capitol 'greening'

Bob Dart

493 words

22 June 2007

Austin American-Statesman

Final

A10

English

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Rick McKay COX NEWSPAPERS

From left, Zara Escobar, 3, Ben Auerbach, 5, Adam Watkins, 4, Maddie Tuck, 4, and Paloma Williams, 4, show off their environmental drawings and posters on Capitol Hill on Thursday. **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi, at left, said the green initiative was 'a contract between us and our kids and grandchildren.'

Nancy Pelosi

'This isn't just a plan, it's a pledge,' **House** speaker says of green initiative.

WASHINGTON -- Capitol Hill carpooling. Hybrids replacing limos. Locally grown and organic food for congressional cafeterias. Ethanol gas pumps. Low-flow showers in the lawmakers' gyms. Energy-efficient light bulbs for legislative all-nighters. Bike racks available for lobbyists. Laws written only on recycled paper.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announced the environmentally friendly measures Thursday that will be taken to achieve "the greening of the Capitol."

The plan would cut Capitol Hill energy consumption in half during the next 10 years.

The "Green the Capitol Initiative" also calls for the **House** to purchase carbon offsets -- to invest in carbon dioxide reduction projects elsewhere to make up for some of its own carbon dioxide emissions -- and to "green" day-to-day operations by using nontoxic cleaning products, conserving water and recycling.

"Global warming and climate change are formidable issues that the entire world is confronting, and the United States Congress must lead by example," Pelosi said.

Reid and Pelosi spoke on the sunny steps on the West Front of the Capitol. Although the Democratic leaders promised that both the Senate and **House** would act to implement energy savings, many of the specifics dealt only with the **House** and were based on a report by **Dan Beard**, the **chief administrative officer** of the **House**.

"We want to make this 19th-century building a 21st-century example," said Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., the assistant majority leader.

The **House** side of the Capitol complex generated some 91,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions in fiscal 2006, the equivalent of the emissions of 17,200 cars.

The report said those emissions could be cut by two-thirds by purchasing electricity produced only through renewable sources -- which would increase the **House** electric bill by \$520,000 per year -- and switching from coal to natural gas in the Capitol Power Plant, which provides steam for heating and cooling.

Durbin conceded there may be political considerations about the switch to natural gas, with objections from states where coal is mined.

Using children from the congressional daycare center as part of their presentation, the Democratic leaders said the changes are needed for coming generations.

"This isn't just a plan, it's a pledge," Pelosi said. "It's a contract between us and our kids and grandchildren, one that says we care about the world we live in today and the world they'll live in tomorrow."

bdart@coxnews.com

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A
What's red and blue but trying to get green all over?

By BOB DART
Cox News Service
555 words
22 June 2007
The Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tarrant
3
English

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WASHINGTON -- Capitol Hill carpooling. Hybrids replacing limos. Locally grown and organic food for congressional cafeterias. Ethanol gas pumps. Low-flow showers in the lawmakers' gyms. Energy-efficient light bulbs for legislative all-nighters. Bike racks available for lobbyists. Laws written only on recycled paper.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announced the environmentally friendly measures Thursday that will be taken to achieve "the greening of the Capitol."

The plan is designed to cut Capitol Hill energy consumption in half over the next 10 years.

The Green the Capitol Initiative also calls for the **House** to buy carbon offsets -- invest in carbon dioxide reduction projects elsewhere to make up for some of its own carbon dioxide emissions.

"Global warming and climate change are formidable issues that the entire world is confronting, and the United States Congress must lead by example," Pelosi said.

Reid and Pelosi spoke at a news conference on the sunny steps on the West Front of the Capitol.

Although the Democratic leaders promised that both the Senate and **House** will act to implement energy savings, many of the specifics dealt only with the **House** and were based on a report by **Dan Beard**, the **chief administrative officer** of the **House**.

The report said that to operate the **House** complex -- the **House** side of the Capitol and five office buildings -- the greenhouse-gas equivalent of 91,000 tons of carbon dioxide were emitted in fiscal 2006. That's roughly equal to the annual carbon dioxide emissions of 17,200 cars.

The report said those emissions could be cut by two-thirds by buying electricity produced only through renewable sources, which would increase the **House** electric bill by \$520,000 per year, and switching from coal to natural gas in the Capitol Power Plant, which provides steam for heating and cooling.

"This isn't just a plan, it's a pledge," Pelosi said. "It's a contract between us and our kids and grandchildren, one that says we care about the world we live in today and the world they'll live in tomorrow."

Online: Read the report, cao.house.gov/greencapitol/green-the-capitol-summary.pdf

Green the Capitol Initiative

Among the steps called for in the **House** report:

Change computer operations to centrally power down equipment when unused at night and on weekends.

Replace existing lighting with energy-efficient bulbs.

Establish a position of employee transit coordinator and implement a car-sharing program.

Implement a bike-to-work program and install more bike racks.

Install an E-85 ethanol fueling station.

Replace **House** motor vehicle fleet with hybrid or alternative-fuel vehicles.

Buy products for congressional cafeterias that the EPA declares environmentally preferable.

Set goals for buying locally grown and organically produced foods.

Improve water use efficiency in kitchens, gyms and laundries. Install low-flow water fixtures.

Decrease pesticide use on Capitol grounds. Use nontoxic cleaning products.

Expand tree canopy.

Procure 100 percent recycled paper and reduce paper consumption.

SOURCE: Cox News Service

image/jpeg | 152615-122413.jpg | As **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi announces plans to make Capitol Hill more environmentally friendly, children of Capitol Hill staffers display their environmental drawings. | COX WASHINGTON BUREAU/RICK MCKAY

Document FWST000020070622e36m00017

San Francisco Chronicle

NEWS

Dems open campaign to 'Green the Capitol' / Plan seeks to cut House's energy use 50% in 10 years

Edward Epstein
Chronicle Washington Bureau
1,121 words
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The San Francisco Chronicle

FINAL

A.4

English

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Democratic congressional leaders are trying to convince Americans they are serious about combatting global warming, creating a cleaner environment and fostering energy independence by starting at home.

They are pushing ahead with their "Green the Capitol Initiative," which **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, said Thursday means the **House** will operate in a carbon-neutral manner by the end of 2008 and cut energy consumption by 50 percent in 10 years.

Senate leaders vowed to enact their own energy-saving measures on their side of the Capitol, where about 10,000 people work directly for the two houses of Congress, its 535 members, their committees and support bodies.

If nothing else, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D- Nev., said at a ceremony outside the Capitol, Congress should serve as an example of energy skimpiness and environmental stewardship, especially when it is moving toward mandating sweeping changes on all Americans' energy-using habits.

"We have to get our own **house** in order before we launch a sweeping agenda for the rest of the country and the world," Pelosi told a sweltering audience that couldn't wait to get back into the Capitol's air-conditioned comfort on a steamy Washington morning.

"Shouldn't we be the model for things green?" asked Reid, who like just about all male members of Congress wears a navy blue or black wool suit no matter what the weather.

"The answer is yes," Reid said.

The occasion for the event was the final report to Pelosi on turning the **House** green from Daniel Beard, the **House's chief administrative officer**.

Beard's 60-page follow-up to a preliminary April report, printed on recycled paper using soy ink, said the **House** complex of office buildings, its half of the two-century-old Capitol and the Capitol power plant are responsible for about 19,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

To reduce that, officials have already negotiated to buy 100 percent of the **House's** electricity from renewable sources.

The **House** will turn to the Chicago Climate Exchange to buy contracts offsetting 24,000 tons of carbon emissions, a move that will cost about \$95,000 a year. These contracts cover carbon- reducing projects elsewhere in the country of the same size.

The most controversial idea -- in a Congress where coal- producing state members zealously stand up for the coal industry -- is for the Capitol power plant to substitute natural gas for coal as a fuel. Beard estimated the switch would cut the plant's CO₂ emissions by 30 percent from their 2006 levels, the equivalent of taking 1,900 cars off the road.

The plant, just a few blocks south of the Capitol, produces heat and chilled air for the Capitol complex, but not electricity.

Reid's deputy majority leader, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, is from a state with considerable coal production.

Asked about the plan to dump coal, his answer showed there will be a lot of questions asked.

"We should clean up the plant as much as technically possible," he said. "We need a plant that sets a national example."

He said he'd like the plant's CO₂ to be sequestered, perhaps piped away and buried rather than being released in the atmosphere. The problem is that such technology would be extremely expensive and experimental and could delay ending coal use at the plant.

Durbin said the plant's emissions have already been cut, even as it remains partially fueled by coal.

The report contains a laundry list of other proposals from planting more trees around the Capitol to encouraging employees to bike to work or carpool. Currently, Beard said, 5,800 parking spaces are set aside for **House** members and staff, and they are full every day, even though the Capitol is heavily served by mass transit.

Asked if he would propose taking away employee parking spaces, Beard demurred. "Parking places are the third rail for employees," he said.

And the report showed that even when Congress has good intentions, that sometimes isn't enough. For instance, Congress has started buying E85 vehicles for VIPs like Pelosi and Reid, vehicles that can burn fuel that's up to 85 percent ethanol. The problem is there is no E85 station anywhere near Capitol Hill.

The legislative appropriations bill under consideration in the **House** this week sets aside money to install an E85 tank and pump near the Capitol.

In the Senate, the comprehensive energy bill under debate includes such green provisions as requiring a 20 percent improvement in all federal buildings' energy efficiency and installing a solar- power-producing wall at the Department of Energy headquarters in Washington.

For their part, Republicans -- now in the minority -- say the Democrats are making it sound as if they didn't do anything to improve energy efficiency when they were in charge of Congress. In a letter to Beard, Rep. Vernon Ehlers, R-Mich., reminded the Democrats that millions of dollars were invested in recent years on the Capitol's energy efficiency.

"Because of these investments ... the **House's** indexed energy usage and carbon emissions are lower now than in 1996," he wrote.-----

'Green the Capitol'

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announced a plan to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions at the Capitol and the congressional offices.

To read the report from the **House's** **chief administrative officer** about how that can be accomplished, go to: [www.speaker.gov/ issues?id=0023](http://www.speaker.gov/issues?id=0023)

Among the report's hundreds of proposals:

-- The **House** can become carbon neutral by the end of 2008 by buying electricity produced by renewable sources, operating its power plant with natural gas and buying offsets for some carbon emissions on the Chicago Climate Exchange.

-- Install energy-efficient fluorescent lightbulbs wherever possible.

-- Practice sustainable landscaping methods.

-- Install an E85 fuel pump and tank near the Capitol for vehicles that can burn fuel that's up to 85 percent ethanol.

-- Start a bike-to-work program and ride-sharing for employees. Study setting up a car-sharing service for employees who live near the Capitol.

-- Buy office furniture using recycled materials.

-- Hold a green expo for **House** members to demonstrate green products and services they can use in their

offices.

-- Purchase locally grown produce when possible for **House** restaurants.

Source: **House chief administrative officer**

E-mail Edward Epstein at eepstein@sfnchronicle.com.

PHOTO; Caption: Sen. Harry Reid and **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi accept Paloma Williams' artwork depicting an environmentally friendly Capitol. / Charles Dharapak / Associated Press

Document SFC0000020070622e36m0003x

Houses Green Road Map Unveiled Today

John McArdle

687 words

21 June 2007

Roll Call

English

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At a ceremony today on the steps of the **House** of Representatives, the **House Chief Administrative Officer** will unveil a road map for achieving the environmentally conscious goals of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) new Green the Capitol Initiative.

In her push to reduce **House** carbon emissions and make the **House** of Representatives a model of sustainability, Pelosi has set two major milestones. The first is for the **House** to operate in a carbon-neutral environment by the end of the 110th Congress. The second is to reduce **House** energy consumption by 50 percent within the next 10 years.

Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard was charged by Pelosi earlier this year with finding a way to achieve those goals, and in his report he lays out a number of strategies to reduce the Houses carbon footprint. Some of those ideas already are included in the legislative branch funding bill that is moving through the **House**.

Environmental responsibility is our duty to future generations, Beard notes in an executive summary of the report that will be released today. Now is the time to act to reduce our energy consumption as well as our energy dependence. To accomplish this, we will change the way we do business. A sustainable **House** Capitol complex will recognize the full environmental impact of our decisions on energy and water consumption, materials use and the quality of our workplace.

Beard notes in the report that the most immediate step must be reducing the approximately 91,000 tons of carbon emission produced by the **House** of Representatives each year. To achieve carbon neutrality within the next 18 months, Beard recommends purchasing **House** electricity from only renewable sources; switching from coal, oil and gas fuel at the Capitol Power Plant to natural gas only; and purchasing carbon offsets for fossil fuel usage that cannot be immediately replaced.

Implementing the first two recommendations would leave 24,000 tons of carbon emissions that the **House** would need to offset, and Beard is recommending that carbon credits be purchased through the Chicago Climate Exchange program, which would use the money specifically for projects in the United States.

A memorandum of agreement has been executed with Chicago Climate Exchange to initiate this action, Beard writes in his report. The cost of offsetting 24,000 tons of greenhouse gases is estimated to be approximately \$95,000.

Beard states that the longer-term goal of reducing **House** energy use by 50 percent in the next decade is not only achievable but also a wise investment for the **House**. That's because the costs associated with reducing energy consumption in **House** buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant in particular, will soon begin to start paying for themselves.

The Capitol Power Plant is the largest single source of carbon emissions on the Hill, Beard writes. It is important for Congress to take a leadership role in modernizing and updating this facility.

And while that effort could take several years, Beard writes that steps such as improving steam and chilled water production efficiency and improving distribution systems could begin immediately.

In advance of the release of the full Green the Capitol Initiative, Republican leaders on administrative issues have circulated letters and issued statements urging **House** Democratic leaders to be cautious in their planning and financing of new initiatives. Some Republicans are particularly troubled about the **House** investing in the relatively new market of carbon offsets.

Earlier this week, **House** Administration ranking member Vernon Ehlert (R-Mich.) asked that Beard and acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers not dismiss the greening efforts that have taken place in the **House** over the past 12 years, which he says have helped lower energy usage and carbon emissions.

A **House** Democratic leadership aide on Wednesday said of Ehlert's letter: We welcome bipartisan support of

this initiative, but the bottom line is during their time in the majority the Republican leadership did very little to make the Capitol green. It begs the question, How many Republicans does it take to screw in a light bulb? The answer is one Democrat: Speaker Pelosi.

Document RLCL000020070621e36I00031

Ehlers Takes Issue With Pelosi's Capitol Greening Initiative

John McArdle

736 words

20 June 2007

Roll Call

English

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Just days before Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) unveils a full report on her much-touted Green the Capitol Initiative, a second Republican leader on administrative issues is calling for top Democrats to be cautious in their planning and not to dismiss the "greening" efforts that have taken place in the **House** over the past 12 years.

In a letter sent to acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers and **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard**, whom Pelosi tapped to lead the initiative, **House** Administration ranking member Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) said that the goal of achieving greater energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important - but not new on Capitol Hill.

"In the past twelve years, significant investments have resulted in major efficiency gains in the Capitol complex, and in the **House** of Representatives in particular. Because of these investments ... the **House's** indexed energy usage and carbon emissions are lower now than in 1996."

In particular, Ehlers praised the Architect of the Capitol's efforts in recent years to achieve the goals of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which requires the agency to have a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption per gross square foot (based on fiscal 2003 levels) by 2015.

Ehlers said Congress' latest efforts, outlined in a preliminary report Beard released in April, "will undoubtedly require difficult decisions and a focus on long-term and costly capital initiatives."

But, he reminded the **House** officers, "as you approach these decisions, it is important to not forget that we are stewards of taxpayer dollars. We have a responsibility to ensure a methodical approach to the allocation of resources, and to ensure that actions are taken within the bounds of Appropriations law, **House** Rules and established procurement guidelines."

A Republican aide familiar with the report said the GOP skepticism with the Green the Capitol Initiative is based on concern that Beard has not been given enough time to fully study long-term impacts of the effort. Pelosi first directed Beard to develop a series of preliminary recommendations for review on March 1 of this year.

"We fully support efforts to achieve greater energy efficiency and sustainability in the Capitol complex, but we're not going to get where we need to be in a short 18 months," the aide said of Pelosi's stated goal to have the **House** operate in a carbon neutral environment by the end of the 110th Congress.

Meanwhile, the aide said, the possibility that the **House** soon could be purchasing carbon offset credits in the domestic market also raises some troubling questions.

"We fear that a misplaced focus on the short term will lead to buying these indulgences from an unregulated market that many have deemed conventional charities, and a declaration of victory, which does little to address the long-term structural changes that will be required of the Congress," the staffer said. "We need a fiscally responsible investment strategy that delivers real energy efficiency, and not an optical solution to a real problem."

Ehlers reminded Beard and Ayers in his letter that the challenges facing the Capitol complex "cannot be solved immediately" but should be solved in a bipartisan way.

"As you continue to develop your strategy to ensure that the Capitol operates in the most energy efficient manner possible, we look forward to receiving a bi-partisan briefing on your efforts to build on the foundation of more than a decade of environmental reforms put in place by your predecessors with the support of leadership on both sides of the aisle."

On Tuesday, Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.), the newly installed chairman of the **House** Administration Committee, said he appreciated Ehlers' support to "extend the Greening of the Capitol beyond the efforts of the past."

Brady said the late Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.), the former chairwoman of the committee, joined Pelosi in the original request "that the CAO initiate a more aggressive greening effort, and I fully intend to continue that initiative. Along with Representative Ehlers, I look with anticipation to [Thursday's] announcement of the CAO's final Greening of the Capitol report."

Last week, Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.), the ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch, preached caution on the initiative and claimed that some options already presented were not fully vetted in a bipartisan manner.

Document RLCL000020070620e36k00009

House to Get New Culinary Experience?

Elizabeth Brotherton

700 words

18 June 2007

Roll Call

English

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Although the fiscal 2008 legislative branch appropriations bill is chock full of funds designed to improve personnel and security matters on Capitol Hill, there are a few items included in the measure that could bring some fresh faces - and tastes - to the Congressional campus.

The bill assigns **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** to study ways to increase the availability of free-trade-certified coffee on Capitol Hill, while also looking at how culinary school students could help revamp the menu and assist in the preparation of food in the **House** Members' Dining Room.

"The Committee believes that opportunities exist for culinary school students nationwide to enhance their skills by giving them the opportunity, as part of their regular curriculum, to define the menu and assist with the preparation of the selections," the report for the bill reads.

In the study, Beard is tasked with contacting culinary schools and looking at how students might be able to participate, on a rotational basis, in such an on-the-job training program.

The idea emerged during a March Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the legislative branch bill, when Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) asked Beard if such a program was feasible.

At the time, Beard called it "an excellent suggestion."

Wasserman Schultz could not be reached for comment Friday.

Bringing students to Capitol Hill isn't anything new - there are hundreds of unpaid interns who can attest to that. But it is unclear how a program involving such a highly specialized field would work, said Jeff Ventura, a spokesman for the CAO's office.

What responsibilities would the students have? How long would their stay on Capitol Hill last? How much power would they have in changing the menus?

"We're not even that far along in our thought process," Ventura said. "Right now, the idea's on the table, and it's time to figure out whether or not there's feasibility to do it."

Feasibility to expand fair-trade coffee options might be a bit easier, as two **House** locations already offer it on their menus.

Capitol Carryout, located in the building's basement, and a coffee vendor in the Longworth **House** Office Building sell fair-trade coffee alongside other caffeinated beverages.

But purchases of the free-trade joe significantly lag behind other coffee counterparts, according to sales reports. At the Capitol location, non-free-trade coffee outsells the free-trade variety 2 to 1; at the Longworth location, that gap jumps to 10 to 1.

"It's not necessarily moving quickly as a product," Ventura said. "That is certainly not to say we are opposed to expanding that program."

The effort to bring fair-trade coffee began in 2001, when then- Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) led an effort to bring the product to the chamber, and supporters argue that it is one way Americans can help reduce poverty in the developing world.

Agriculture workers often toil in "sweatshops in the fields," producing coffee that sells for less than the costs of production, according to the human rights group Global Exchange. Importers of fair-trade coffee, however, meet stringent international criteria and pay a minimum price of \$1.26 per pound, providing credit to farmers and technician assistance to help transition to organic farming.

"Fair Trade for coffee farmers means community development, health, education, and environmental stewardship," according to a Global Exchange release.

There are a number of other studies the CAO's office is currently undertaking, most notably developing a long-term plan to green the Capitol complex. That study is expected to be presented to the public next week.

Beard also is assigned in the bill to study how best to improve disability access on Capitol Hill, increase public access to roll- call information, expand the hours of the **House** Fitness Center and pay **House** employees more often than once a month.

It is unclear which Members pushed for the various initiatives, Ventura said, but he added that the CAO would look to undertake whatever Members think is important.

"They are improvements that Members want looked into," Ventura said. "And that's what we do. We're always willing."

Document RLCL000020070618e36i00004

National

Green is Capitol's new patriotic color ; Congress joins fight against global warming

Jim Abrams / The Associated Press

599 words

17 June 2007

The Grand Rapids Press

All Editions

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WASHINGTON -- Congress says it is going to join the war against global warming by cleaning up its own backyard, now cluttered with a coal-burning power plant, a fleet of fuel-inefficient vehicles and old-fashioned lights.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has set a goal of making **House** operations carbon neutral during this session of Congress, meaning the **House** would remove as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it adds by the end of next year.

"The **House** must lead by example, and it is time for Congress to act on its own carbon footprint," Pelosi said in announcing the initiative that would shift the **House** to 100 percent renewable electric power.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., has sponsored legislation with the long-term aim of making the Capitol complex, 23 buildings where about 15,000 people work, carbon neutral by 2020.

Currently, the Capitol complex, which includes office buildings, the Library of Congress, the Botanic Garden and the Government Printing Office, accounts for about 316,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year, the same as 57,455 cars.

Power plant a big culprit

About one-third of that comes from the combustion of fossil fuels at the 97-year-old Capitol Power Plant, the only coal-burning facility in the District of Columbia.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office said in a recent report, there is not one hybrid-electric vehicle in the legislative branch fleet of more than 300 vehicles.

House workers have taken the immediate step of converting 2,000 desk lamps to more efficient compact fluorescent lamps.

Within six months, the remaining 10,000 desk lamps will switch to CFLs, saving the **House** \$245,000 a year in electricity costs.

House Chief Administrative Officer Daniel Beard, in a report to Pelosi, said the **House** side of the Capitol, which includes four large office buildings, was responsible for 91,000 tons of greenhouse gas in the fiscal year ending last September, equivalent to annual carbon dioxide emissions of 17,200 cars.

The largest source of carbon dioxide comes from the purchase of electricity.

Beard said his office, working with the Architect of the Capitol, will strive to meet all electricity needs, about 103,000 megawatt-hours per year, with renewable sources.

That alone, Beard said, would eliminate 57,000 tons a year of greenhouse gas emissions, the same as removing 11,000 cars from the roads.

Setting a good example

On the Senate side, Rules and Administration Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has outlined a plan to audit energy use in all Senate buildings and reduce energy consumption by

30 percent by 2015 by installing high-efficiency lighting and buying renewable energy.

The biggest challenge remains the Capitol Power Plant, an eyesore four blocks south of the Capitol. The plant hasn't generated power since 1952, but it does provide steam for heating and cooling.

"In the shadow of the nation's Capitol, we should expect more than a dirty power plant that pollutes the air and our community," Kerry said.

Lawmakers, dealing with the over-budget, still-unfinished \$600 million Capitol Visitor Center, are in no mood to spend money on a new plant, and proposals to eliminate coal have been resisted by coal-state Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

"With the emergence of new clean coal technologies, I believe coal should play a role in meeting the energy needs of the Capitol complex," Byrd said.

Document GRPR000020070619e36h0009q

GOP Preaches Caution on Green Plan

John McArdle
988 words
14 June 2007
Roll Call
English

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Less than two months after the release of a preliminary report on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) new Green the Capitol Initiative, appropriators have approved \$3.9 million in new funding for the effort and redirected other dollars so officials can study ways to create a more environmentally friendly **House** of Representatives.

And while **House** Republicans say they are supportive of efforts to increase energy efficiency on Capitol Hill, the message they have sent across the aisle is "Proceed with caution."

The \$3.1 billion fiscal 2008 legislative branch appropriations bill approved by **House** appropriators on Tuesday directs the Architect of the Capitol to move forward with several green projects, including building a new ethanol fuel pump on Capitol Hill (at a cost of \$500,000) and installing energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout the **House** (a \$100,000 project).

Another \$520,000 will go toward purchasing renewable electrical power from local providers for **House** needs. But the lion's share of green-targeted funding will go toward shifting fuel supplies at the Capitol Power Plant (which despite its name provides only steam and chilled water to heat and cool Congressional buildings) from coal to cleaner natural gas. The **House** is expecting to spend an extra \$2.7 million next year to increase the use of natural gas, which produces less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels, at the facility.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office and **House Chief Administrative Officer** both were directed in the bill to conduct energy-efficiency studies at the power plant and various office buildings.

Some Republicans already have lent their support to the Green the Capitol Initiative, and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) even successfully offered an amendment to the bill that lays out a framework for how the **House** could go about purchasing the carbon offsets it will need to fulfill Pelosi's plan for operating the **House** in a carbon-neutral environment by the end of the 110th Congress.

But Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.), ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch and co-chairman of the **House** Renewable Energy Caucus, said, "Some questions do need to be pursued."

Wamp, who said "there is widespread bipartisan support for trying to be more environmentally efficient," added that Republicans aren't entirely satisfied with how the various greening projects were vetted.

He admitted the Green the Capitol Initiative is not a large budgetary issue compared with some other projects, such as the nearly \$600 million Capitol Visitor Center, "and in a sense this does come down under the category of the prerogative of the majority." But, he noted, "it's the responsibility of the minority to ask the questions. ... You have to be careful about sometimes throwing a little bit of money at these issues and then claiming that it's a real substantive change."

Wamp specifically questioned whether enough work had been done to show there was an actual need for Capitol Hill to have its own ethanol fueling station and whether Democrats had done enough to study the long-term impacts of shifting energy sources at the Capitol Power Plant.

Adding an ethanol pump to the Hill was an effort **House** Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) pushed for inclusion in the fiscal 2007 legislative branch bill before the funding measure was rolled into the continuing resolution.

"It is unfortunate that some Members underestimate both the current and future benefits of putting this pump into place," Hoyer spokeswoman Stacey Farnen Bernards said Wednesday. "The various agencies on Capitol Hill use hundreds of vehicles and many of these may run on E85 - including the SUVs used by all members of leadership - but there is no pump close enough for practical use. In fact, it would be neglectful and shortsighted not to put such a pump on the grounds of the Capitol."

CAO **Dan Beard**, whom Pelosi has charged with leading the initiative, said the concerns raised with the

ouse greening efforts simply may be the result of Members being used to the slow pace at which legislation usually moves on Capitol Hill.

"We can chew on decisions a long time up here, but I think the Speaker wanted to move quickly with this effort," Beard said. "The Greening the Capitol Initiative is a blueprint, a foundation for how the Speaker wants to do business over the next five to 10 years. It lays out a roadmap on how we're going to make the kinds of choices we're going to have to make and the kinds of business practices we'll have to follow going forward."

Beard said the initiative was not developed in a vacuum but with the help of the Department of Energy, private groups and the Architect of the Capitol.

In fact, according to a 2006 annual report on energy and water management released last month by the Architect, the AOC was studying the replacement of incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent lamps in 2006. In that report the AOC also lists the purchase of "green energy" from local providers as a way to promote more effective energy management.

"There's no one that has said the recommendations that we have put forward are wacky or completely out of line," Beard said. "They are accepted business practices and ways in which companies and organizations have been doing greening efforts all across the country."

"I have heard some people say, 'Gee, did you consult with the Architect of the Capitol?' We did. 'And did you consult with all the Members?' And frankly, in a short time frame like this, it's difficult if not impossible to get around to all 440 Members of the **House**," he said.

Beard is expected to unveil a final report on the Green the Capitol Initiative next week that is slated to include an updated set of recommendations for **House** operations.

Document RLCL000020070614e36e00008

Congress tries to cut own carbon output Leaders move to get more efficient auto fleet, lighting; Byrd resists effort to ditch coal plant

JIM ABRAMS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
732 words
11 June 2007
Charleston Gazette
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English
(Copyright 2007)

WASHINGTON - Congress says it is going to join the war against global warming by cleaning up its own backyard, now cluttered with a coal-burning power plant, a fleet of fuel-inefficient vehicles and old-fashioned lights.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has set a goal of making **House** operations carbon neutral during this session of Congress, meaning the **House** would remove as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it adds by the end of next year.

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Currently the Capitol complex, which includes office buildings, the Library of Congress, the Botanic Garden and the Government Printing Office, accounts for about 316,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year, the same as 57,455 cars.

About one-third of that comes from the combustion of fossil fuels at the 97-year-old Capitol Power Plant, the only coal-burning facility in the District of Columbia.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office said in a recent report, there is not one hybrid-electric vehicle in the legislative branch fleet of more than 300 vehicles. The fleet, mostly light-duty trucks, has only 35 vehicles that use alternative fuels, although the Architect's Office has ordered that almost all newly acquired vehicles be alternative-fuel compatible.

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House Chief Administrative Officer Daniel Beard, in a report to Pelosi, said the **House** side of the Capitol, which includes four large office buildings, was responsible for 91,000 tons of greenhouse gas in the fiscal year ending last September, equivalent to annual carbon dioxide emissions of 17,200 cars.

The largest source of carbon dioxide comes from the purchase of electricity. Beard said his office, working with the Architect of the Capitol, will strive to meet all electricity needs, about 103,000 megawatt-hours per year, with renewable sources. Currently, more than half the electricity Congress buys is generated by coal. Only 2 percent comes from renewable fuels.

That alone, Beard said, would eliminate 57,000 tons a year of greenhouse gas emissions, the same as removing 11,000 cars from the roads. Another 7,130 tons would be saved with plans to convert overhead ceiling lights with high-efficiency lighting and controls.

On the Senate side, Rules and Administration Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has outlined a plan to audit energy use in all Senate buildings and reduce energy consumption by 30 percent by 2015 by installing high-efficiency lighting and buying renewable energy supplies.

All these efforts, said Anthony Kreindler, spokesman for Environmental Defense, are "meaningful not only for what they are doing for the Capitol, but it does set a good example for the rest of the country."

The biggest challenge remains the Capitol Power Plant, an eyesore located four blocks south of the Capitol. The plant hasn't generated power since 1952, but it does provide steam for heating and cooling.

The plant's boilers are fired using coal for 49 percent of their output and natural gas for 47 percent.

"In the shadow of the nation's capital, we should expect more than a dirty power plant that pollutes the air and our community," Kerry said in a statement.

Lawmakers, dealing with the over-budget, still-unfinished \$600 million Capitol Visitor Center, are in no mood to spend money on a new plant, and proposals to eliminate coal have been resisted by coal-state Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

"With the emergence of new clean coal technologies, I believe coal should play a role in meeting the energy needs of the Capitol complex," Byrd said.

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NATIONAL
DAN BEARD, KEEPER OF THE HOUSE

LOIS ROMANO, THE WASHINGTON POST
656 words
2 June 2007
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
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The **House** of Representatives took a break this week, but **Dan Beard's** job is never done.

BlackBerry broken? Dan's your man.

Upholstery ripped on the congressman's favorite chair? You know who to call.

Raise didn't show up in this month's check? Yep, it's Dan's signature on the 10,000 paychecks issued from the **House**.

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He's the guy you never hear about who roams the tunnels of the Capitol complex, supervising the drapery makers and upholsterers, making sure the 250 computer techs get the 1 million daily e-mails smoothly to and from users, and directing the three cafeterias and the private members' dining room.

Under his purview are 125,000 pieces of furniture, 7,000 BlackBerrys, 15,000 laptops, 5,800 parking places, 11,500 phones and what may be the last working horsehair picker in America. (More on that later.)

"When you look at a job on paper, it's one thing -- but this job has tentacles that keep going in all directions all the time," said Mr. Beard, 64, a grandfather who decided to scrap his third try at retirement when offered the job by **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D- Calif.

Mr. Beard is an officer of the **House**, elected by the members to the patronage post, which pays \$160,000 a year. It was created in 1995 by the new Republican majority and has since grown in scope.

Mr. Beard oversees a \$1.5 billion **House** operating budget in a glorious but antiquated building, still governed by arcane rules and laws. "I think the biggest challenge has been to bring modern technology and business practices to an institution that still has many 19th-century traditions and ways of operating," he said.

He is exasperated, for instance, that he is required by law to pay Hill staffers monthly on the last day of the month and to pay legislators on the first of the month, instead of doing payroll once every two weeks. But congressional pay has long been a touchy issue among the elected officials and, Mr. Beard says, "when you bring up pay, it's difficult because everyone gets wrapped around the axle."

One of Mr. Beard's first mandates was to develop a preliminary report recommending how to make the **House** complex more energy efficient and eco-friendly. He will eventually outfit 17,000 lamps with compact fluorescent light bulbs, and has his sights set on reducing the number of cars that come into the parking garage daily. Speaker Pelosi also directed him to try to reduce the wait list for the **House** day-care center.

On a Capitol tour with Mr. Beard, walking through tunnels a layman would never find, one sees a draperies workroom with massive bolts of red and blue fabrics lining the walls, a recording studio with 20 monitors from which **House** employees direct C-SPAN coverage, and a work space for refinishing and recovering furniture.

Which bring us back to the horsehair picker, a shaky wood and metal contraption tucked away in a dark stuffy room that, yes, picks horsehair.

Virtually all the upholstered furniture in the **House** is stuffed with horsehair. Instead of acquiring new furniture and new fillers, the old hair is hand-fed and reuffled in this 50-year-old machine, then restuffed into

old frames. It is a time-consuming process, and there has been talk over the years of doing away with the machine.

But this item clearly brings Mr. Beard joy, as he explains its intricacies and history. Suffice it to say, this is one thing he has no interest in updating.

PHOTO; Caption: PHOTO: **Dan Beard**, Capitol man

Document PPGZ000020070602e3620000u

News

Bid for a carbon-neutral House ; Close Up

Lyndsey Layton

Lyndsey Layton. The Washington Post

775 words

1 June 2007

The Seattle Times

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A plan to offset the carbon dioxide generated by the chamber's daily operations would rely heavily on altering the fuel mixture at the Capitol Power Plant. The biggest hurdles? Two coal-state senators: Democrat Robert Byrd and Republican Mitch McConnell.

WASHINGTON --

A **House** plan to become carbon-neutral by the end of this Congress calls for dropping coal from the fuel mix burned at the Capitol Power Plant to heat and cool **House** buildings.

"Carbon-neutral," the environmental buzzword of the climate-change generation, means measuring the amount of carbon dioxide generated by a home or business in the course of daily operations and finding ways -- through conservation, recycling or use of renewable energy -- to offset it.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard, directed in March by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to devise a strategy to make the **House** side of the Capitol carbon-neutral, said last week that burning natural gas at the power plant instead of coal would go a long way toward reducing the **House's** carbon emissions.

The power plant, four blocks from **House** office buildings, has burned coal since it opened in 1910 and is the only coal-burning facility in Washington, D.C. Carbon dioxide from coal burning is a significant greenhouse gas. Attempts over the years to drop coal from the fuel mix at the plant have been stymied by coal-state Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Because the power plant is owned by Congress, the **House** cannot ban coal unilaterally; it can only control fuel used to heat and cool its buildings.

Despite its name, the Capitol Power Plant has not produced a watt of electricity since 1952; the complex buys power from Pepco. Instead, the plant generates steam and chilled water to heat and cool the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and 19 other structures. Coal accounts for 49 percent of its output; the rest is generated by natural gas and oil.

The **House**, its cafeterias and offices generated 91,000 tons of greenhouse gases in 2006 -- equal to the annual emissions of 17,200 cars. About two-thirds of that pollution came from electricity the **House** buys and one-third from the Capitol Power Plant, Beard said.

For the **House** to go carbon-neutral, Beard is devising a four-point plan. First, and already under way, is an effort to cut electricity use by converting all 12,000 desk lamps in **House** office buildings to compact fluorescent bulbs and installing dimmers.

Next, the **House** expects to buy all its electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar, Beard said. And if the **House** replaces coal with natural gas at the power plant, annual carbon emissions can be reduced by 75 percent. To get rid of the remaining 25 percent and become carbon-neutral by 2010, the **House** could either buy offset credits or invest in conservation projects, Beard said.

One project in which the **House** may invest is a system under study at the National Zoo that would convert animal waste into fuel, Beard said.

The costs to the **House** of going carbon-neutral will be part of recommendations Beard will deliver to Pelosi by June 30.

But the **House** is only one part of the equation.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., filed legislation last month to require the entire Capitol complex to be carbon-neutral by 2020. He has been particularly concerned about the Capitol Power Plant.

Frank O'Donnell, president of the Clean Air Watch, an environmental watchdog group, said the lawmakers are taking steps in the right direction, but he is skeptical that meaningful changes will be made.

"As long as the Capitol Power Plant is still burning a substantial portion of coal, it's hard to believe that these plans will be successful," he said. "It's almost a microcosm of the entire problem of global warming -- Congress is having a debate but not willing to take on the biggest problem in their own backyard because of the connections of several senators, namely Robert Byrd and Mitch McConnell. It's almost as if Tony Soprano had a seat in the Senate to demand that plant burn coal as it did in 1910."

photo; Caption: Jahi Chikwendiu / The Washington Post : The Capitol Power Plant, opened in 1910, is the city's only coal-burning facility. Coal accounts for 49 percent of the steam and chilled water it produces to heat and cool the Capitol. The remainder comes from natural gas and oil. (0401960307)

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LOIS ROMANO
A Section
The Keeper of the House [Corrected 5 June 2007]

Lois Romano
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31 May 2007
The Washington Post
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PUBLISHED CORRECTIONS: The May 31 On the Hill column and an accompanying photo caption incorrectly said that the U.S. **House** of Representatives has 440 members. It has 435 members, four delegates and one resident commissioner. (Published 6/2/2007)

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And that's not the half of it.

Under his purview are 125,000 pieces of furniture, 7,000 BlackBerrys, 15,000 laptops, 5,800 parking places, 11,500 phones and what may be the last working horsehair picker in America. (More on that later.) "When you look at a job on paper, it's one thing -- but this job has tentacles that keep going in all directions all the time," said Beard, 64, a grandfather who decided to scrap his third try at retirement when offered the job by **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). Beard said that if there is a mayor of Capitol Hill, the administrative officer would be the city manager.

Beard is an officer of the **House**, elected by the members to the patronage post, which pays \$160,000 a year. It was created in 1995 by the new Republican majority and has grown in scope over the years.

All told, Beard oversees a \$1.5 billion **House** operating budget in a glorious but antiquated building, still governed by arcane rules and laws. "I think the biggest challenge has been to bring modern technology and modern business practices to an institution that still has many 19th-century traditions and ways of operating," he said.

"There are curious laws that were passed to address a particular problem at a particular time," he said, "and now when you reflect back on them, they don't make any sense."

He is exasperated, for instance, that he is required by law to pay Hill staffers monthly on the last day of the month and to pay legislators on the first of the month -- instead of doing payroll once every two weeks. But congressional pay has long been a touchy issue among the elected officials and, Beard says, "when you

bring up pay, it's difficult because everyone gets wrapped around the axle."

"You have to take political imperatives into account in just about everything you do," he said -- quite challenging, he adds, with 440 demanding bosses (voting and nonvoting members of the **House**). "You don't get here unless you are an outgoing individual, and these are 440 people who are not shy about letting me know when they have a problem. . . . And saying no is difficult in this institution -- always has been."

Beard had recently left a job at Booz Allen Hamilton and had settled briefly into retirement when after the election he heard from Pelosi's chief of staff, John Lawrence, with whom he had once worked in the office of Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), a close Pelosi ally. Lawrence told Beard he was well suited to the demanding job.

One of Beard's first mandates was to develop a preliminary report recommending how to make the **House** complex more energy efficient and eco-friendly. To that end, he will eventually outfit 17,000 lamps with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Among other options, he has his sights set on reducing the number of cars that come into the parking garage daily. (Another tough one to take on!) In addition, Pelosi directed him to try to reduce the wait list for the **House** day-care center. "What I want to do is try and develop a good benefits package that will give employees a reason to stay here and make this a profession, not just a pass-through place for young people," says Beard. "We need better day care, tuition reimbursement. We offer no short-term disability, . . . don't have dental, eye care."

Now in his fourth month on the job, he recently gave a visitor a tour of his stomping grounds, complete with a meal in the packed Longworth **House** Office Building cafeteria. Walking through the tunnels that a layman would never find, one sees a draperies workroom with massive bolts of red and blue fabrics lining the walls, a recording studio with 20 monitors from which **House** employees direct C-SPAN coverage, and a work space for refinishing and recovering furniture.

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A carbon-neutral House?

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By LYNDSEY LAYTON

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A plan by the **House** to become carbon-neutral by the end of this Congress calls for dropping coal from the fuel mix burned at the Capitol Power Plant to heat and cool **House** buildings.

"Carbon-neutral," the environmental buzzword of the climate change generation, means measuring the amount of carbon dioxide generated by a home or business in the course of daily operations and finding ways -- through conservation, recycling or use of renewable energy -- to offset it.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard, who was directed in March by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to devise a strategy to make the **House** side of the Capitol carbon-neutral, said Thursday that burning natural gas at the power plant instead of coal would go a long way toward reducing the **House's** carbon emissions.

The power plant, four blocks from **House** office buildings, has burned coal since it opened in 1910 and is the only coal-burning facility in Washington D.C. Carbon dioxide from coal burning is a significant greenhouse gas. Attempts over the years to drop coal from the fuel mix at the plant have been stymied by coal-state Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Because the power plant is owned by Congress, the **House** cannot unilaterally ban coal; it can only control the fuel used to heat and cool its buildings.

Despite its name, the Capitol Power Plant has not produced a watt of electricity since 1952; the Capitol complex buys its power from Pepco. Instead, the plant generates steam and chilled water to heat and cool the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and 19 other structures. Coal accounts for 49 percent of its output; the rest is generated by natural gas and oil.

The daily operation of the **House** of Representatives, its cafeterias and offices generated 91,000 tons of greenhouse gases in 2006 -- equal to the annual emissions of 17,200 cars.

About two-thirds of that pollution came from electricity the **House** buys and one-third from the Capitol Power Plant, Beard said.

For the **House** to go carbon-neutral, Beard is devising a four-point plan. First, and already underway, is an effort to cut electricity use by converting all 12,000 desk lamps in **House** office buildings to compact fluorescent bulbs and installing dimmers.

Next, the **House** expects to buy all its electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar through an arrangement with Pepco, Beard said. And if the **House** replaces coal with natural gas at the power plant, it can reduce its annual carbon emissions by 75 percent. To get rid of the remaining 25 percent and become carbon-neutral by 2010, the **House** could either buy offset credits or invest in conservation projects, Beard said.

One project in which the **House** may invest is a system under study at the National Zoo that would convert animal waste into fuel, Beard said.

The costs to the **House** of going carbon-neutral -- buying all electricity from renewable sources, replacing coal with natural gas, investing in offsets -- are still being fine-tuned but will be part of recommendations Beard will deliver to Pelosi by June 30.

But the **House** is just one part of the equation.

Last month, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., filed legislation to require the entire Capitol complex to be carbon-neutral by 2020. He has been particularly concerned about the Capitol Power Plant.

Frank O'Donnell, president of the Clean Air Watch, an environmental watchdog group, said the lawmakers are taking steps in the right direction, but he is skeptical that meaningful changes will be made.

"As long as the Capitol Power Plant is still burning a substantial portion of coal, it's hard to believe that these plans will be successful," he said. "It's almost a microcosm of the entire problem of global warming -- Congress is having a debate but not willing to take on the biggest problem in their own back yard because of the connections of several senators, namely Robert Byrd and Mitch McConnell. It's almost as if Tony Soprano had a seat in the Senate to demand that plant burn coal as it did in 1910."

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A Section

A Carbon-Neutral House?; Plan Would Offset Emissions End of Current Congress

Lyndsey Layton
Washington Post Staff Writer
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"Carbon-neutral," the environmental buzzword of the climate change generation, means measuring the amount of carbon dioxide generated by a home or business in the course of daily operations and finding ways -- through conservation, recycling or use of renewable energy -- to offset it.

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The power plant, four blocks from **House** office buildings, has burned coal since it opened in 1910 and is the only coal-burning facility in the District. Carbon dioxide from coal burning is a significant greenhouse gas. Attempts over the years to drop coal from the fuel mix at the plant have been stymied by coal-state Sens. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) and Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

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But the **House** is just one part of the equation.

A recent study by the Government Accountability Office found the **House** accounts for about 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the entire legislative branch. When the Senate and various support agencies are added in, about 316,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were created in fiscal 2006. That's equivalent to the emissions produced by about 57,455 cars.

Last month, Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) filed legislation to require the entire Capitol complex to be carbon-neutral by 2020. He has been particularly concerned about the Capitol Power Plant.

"It's time the Congress starts to walk the walk when it comes to fighting climate change and saving energy," Kerry said when he filed the bill. "The very plant that fuels our offices and the Capitol is contributing to high levels of pollution and affecting families who live in the city. We need to lead by example on the environment by setting a bold goal of making our Capitol and Congress energy efficient and fighting for clean coal and renewable sources of energy. . . . In the shadow of the nation's Capitol, we should expect more than a dirty power plant that pollutes the air and our communities."

Kerry's bill does not specify the actions that should be taken but talks about a combination of energy efficiency, conservation and using both "onsite and offsite" renewable sources of energy. He does not call for a ban on coal from the power plant but talks about a preference for "clean coal."

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"As long as the Capitol Power Plant is still burning a substantial portion of coal, it's hard to believe that these plans will be successful," he said. "It's almost a microcosm of the entire problem of global warming -- Congress is having a debate but not willing to take on the biggest problem in their own back yard because of the connections of several senators, namely Robert Byrd and Mitch McConnell. It's almost as if Tony Soprano had a seat in the Senate to demand that plant burn coal as it did in 1910."

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It's Curtains for Congress ; House CAO's Furnishing Division Dresses Up the Hill

John McArdle

1,071 words

16 May 2007

Roll Call

English

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Tucked away on the tough-to-find "WA" level of the Rayburn **House** Office Building is a long hallway that to the uninformed passerby doesn't look very different from countless other windowless routes that criss-cross beneath Capitol Hill.

But if you listen closely, a soft hum of activity can be heard just beyond the bare metal doors lining the hallway. And if you linger long enough, you might catch a **House** employee opening the door to a room filled with intricately designed antique furniture or stacked with spools of plush carpets and fabric that come in so many colors the shelves look like enormous boxes of crayons.

If so, you'll have discovered the small city that is the **House Chief Administrative Officer's** furnishing division.

Consisting of about 60 employees and five separate shops that specialize in cabinetry, refinishing, upholstery, carpentry and drapery, the furnishing division is a small but important part of **House** operations. In recent years, the **House** has trended toward contracting out more and more of its furnishing work in an effort to watch the bottom line, but the CAO shops and others like it across both sides of Capitol Hill are likely to remain a part of Congressional operations - not just because they pad the chairs, shade the windows and give new life to old furniture, but because they provide highly skilled, on-site services that, if needed, can be called upon any time of the day and night.

"It's the immediate need that we provide," said Carol Swan, who serves as the textile foreman for the **House** of Representatives and head of the CAO's drapery shop. "You can't get contractors to just drop everything. They're in it to make money. I'm in it just to serve the Members."

Having been in the drapery trade for more than 24 years, Swan has worked for others in privately owned drapery businesses and owned such businesses as well. She has participated in three Congressional transitions and is the **House's** resident expert when it comes to sizing up fabrics, creating treatments for windows and gingerly guiding Members away from atrocious color choices when they pick new carpets and drapes for their offices.

Today, she's in charge of some 4,800 windows on the **House** side, including 1,500 in Member offices.

Swan, a Florida native, said her shop does contract out a lot of its work in order to survive as a four-person staff. In fact, one of Swan's ongoing contracts is with Ely State Prison in Nevada, where about 25 inmates in the maximum security prison's drapery manufacturing program put together pre-made drapes for Member offices. By now, Swan estimates, just about every **House** office has draperies that were produced at Ely.

But some jobs that come up in the "we-needed-it-yesterday" world of Capitol Hill just have to be done in-**house**.

One example is the lying-in-state ceremony held for former President Ronald Reagan in 2004.

"They hadn't had a presidential funeral in a while and nobody was really prepared for it," Swan recalled.

Reagan died on a Saturday, and on Monday it was decided that Swan's shop would be responsible for preparing the Lincoln catafalque and hanging drapes over the west entrance to the Rotunda and the construction doorway leading to the Capitol Visitor Center.

The problem was that the cover for the catafalque needed quite a bit of repair work and the **House** didn't have a supply of black velvet in stock that could be used to make the drapes for the Rotunda.

So as shop staff worked to hand-stitch the repairs to the cover and construct a new base for the catafalque, Swan frantically called fabric distributors to find enough black velvet to get the job done. She eventually found a company in California that was willing to ship the reams of fabric overnight.

"It was delivered to my **house** at 10 or 11 the next morning," Swan said. "From there it went in the back of my pickup truck and down here. ... I was constructing curtains all night for two nights. ... But it all came together."

The drapes she designed were used again this past December during the lying-in-state for former President Gerald Ford.

Of the thousands of designs that Swan has created and overseen since arriving on Capitol Hill, she has several she's particularly proud of.

One of her first projects after taking over the CAO drapery shop was to "redress" Statuary Hall and replace the drapes that had hung there for more than 30 years. It was a project she eventually completed on Sept. 11, 2001.

She also is quick to mention her recent work to overhaul the carpet and drapes in the **House** Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing room in the Rayburn **House** Office Building.

But when asked about her favorite room on Capitol Hill, Swan said it has to be Room 311 in the Cannon Building, which serves as the hearing room for the **House** Homeland Security Committee. The massive gold window treatments she designed for the room were re-created from photos from the early 1900s that Swan had studied.

"Coming from the private sector I was into making money. That's not the case here," she said, referencing her opportunity to work in Capitol Hill's historic spaces.

She said she enjoys getting to know Members and helping them learn a little about her profession as she works with them to create their office spaces.

"All they have to do is pick their favorite color and, from there, I can usually guide them," she said.

This past Congressional transition, Swan worked with all the freshman Members and said in her estimation, very few clashing drapery choices were made by the time the process was complete.

She noted that according to established guidelines, an office's carpet and drapery are supposed to be maintained for five years before a Member can ask to have them changed. Usually, if a Member's room isn't eligible, he or she is stuck with whatever choice the previous occupant made.

However, over the years, "on some real bad decisions we've had to go in and make some repairs," she said.

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Hill Wants Cleaner Power Plant

Elizabeth Brotherton

1,280 words

14 May 2007

Roll Call

English

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Facing increased pressure from lawmakers, watchdog groups and media outlets, Capitol Hill officials are trying to make environmental upgrades at the Capitol Power Plant, the century-old facility that provides cooling and heating to the Capitol complex.

But tough challenges lay ahead, and making the plant eco- friendly will require years of hard work mixed in with political pressure.

About one-third of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the entire Capitol complex come from the power plant, according to an April 2007 report by the Government Accountability Office. In fiscal 2006, the plant produced 102,659 metric tons of emissions.

Among the recommendations the GAO put forth for reducing emission levels was to adjust the fuel mix at the facility to increase the use of natural gas, which produces less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels. The plant also uses oil and coal, considered to be one of the worst pollutants for the environment.

The plant is comprised of three separate facilities: two refrigeration plants, referred to as east and west, and one steam generation plant. Work is currently under way to expand the west refrigeration plant by installing more efficient chillers and other energy-saving systems, according to Eva Malecki, a spokeswoman for the Architect of the Capitol's office.

In recent months, an array of lawmakers have pushed for further improvements to the plant, which is the second-largest point-source of pollution in the District of Columbia.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and **House** Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) recently assigned **Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** to study what the **House** can do to make the Congressional campus carbon neutral. The report is expected to be finalized this summer.

At a hearing of the **House** Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Friday, Beard pushed to get rid of coal at the plant, CongressNow reported.

"If we switched to 100 percent natural gas, we would certainly have a significantly reduced environmental footprint and carbon footprint," Beard said.

Committee members backed the initiative, saying that change must take place at the plant. Ranking member John Mica (R-Fla.) even took a swipe at Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), who, along with other Members of coal-heavy states, has been accused of being a leading reason why coal still burns at the plant.

"We're in a comfortable room here," Mica said. "And actually the power and all generators for the air conditioning is coming from a plant which should have been changed out - but it's run by coal, which comes from West Virginia, which Sen. Byrd has insisted we keep, no matter whether it produces the highest source of emissions or not."

Cleaning the plant hasn't been just left to the **House**. The Senate Rules and Administration Committee is expected to hold a hearing on the matter soon, and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) recently introduced a bill that would require the Capitol complex to become carbon neutral by 2020.

(A few days after he introduced that bill, Kerry put forth a measure to ban all new coal plants that use obsolete technology.)

"The very plant that fuels our offices and the Capitol is contributing to high levels of pollution and affecting families who live in the city," Kerry said. "We need to lead by example on the environment by setting a bold goal of making our Capitol and the Congress energy efficient and fighting for clean coal and renewable sources of energy."

But according to Malecki, that's easier said than done.

"The ability to burn three fuels at the CPP assures reliability, provides flexibility, and ensures some protection against rapidly rising fuel costs as we can switch to a lower-cost fuel at any time," Malecki said. "To cease using one fuel completely would require significant capital improvements to the CPP, necessitate infrastructure changes to the Capitol complex, and increase average fuel costs."

The City's Role

With all the increased attention being given to the facility, the D.C. government, which monitors the power plant's emission levels, is expected to begin a thorough review of the facility within the next few weeks, according to Kim Katzenbargar, who helps oversee air quality issues in the D.C. Department of Health.

"It's a political issue at this point," Katzenbargar said. "We don't see any past noncompliance issues at this facility, but it's something we will certainly look at."

That's not to say that incidents have not happened at the power plant to cause concern, however. The plant was issued a notice of violation in December 2003 for failing to comply with standards, Katzenbargar noted.

Between April 1, 2006, and March 31, 2007, plant officials notified the D.C. government of several incidents at the facility that caused excess opacity. (Katzenbargar described opacity as "just looking at the stack, and seeing if anything is coming out.")

Most of the incidents lasted for just a few minutes. The longest incident during that period took place on Dec. 5, when opacity levels were above 10 percent for 30 minutes, according to a letter submitted to the D.C. Department of Health by the AOC. At times, opacity levels reached up to 28.8 percent.

Plant officials take immediate action to correct such situations, which do not indicate noncompliance with permit requirements, Malecki said.

"This is very common," Katzenbargar added. "Especially during start-up and shutdown, you're going to have these exceedences because of what's collected in the boiler in that time. If you just get a couple of minutes here and there, it's not that serious."

The main issue, Katzenbargar said, is how the plant moves forward with its environmental policies, a decision that must be made by lawmakers.

Rich Gold, an environmental expert who also serves as the head of the federal team for the law firm Holland & Knight, said there are unique challenges that the legislative branch faces with eco- issues.

"Both the cost and the realities of working in and around the Capitol make changes that, if we were out in Boise would be relatively minor and easy, much more complex," Gold said.

The ongoing delays and cost increases at the Capitol Visitors Center could pose one challenge, Gold said, as lawmakers now are wary of making any major renovations to the Capitol complex. But at the same time, there is a drive on the Hill to make environmental improvements for the entire campus and a sense it is something that simply must be done, Gold said.

"Members kind of get that it's their neighborhood here, and it's not doing any good if it stays that way," he said.

Plus, Gold said, the utilities industry and other businesses are being asked by Congress to make major changes to their own facilities, and it looks bad if there is "a dirty plant sitting here just six blocks away."

Malecki said the plant's environmental performance has improved in recent years.

The AOC had to reduce its energy consumption in fiscal 2006 by 2 percent under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In the end, the AOC reduced consumption by 6.5 percent.

The plant was the biggest contributor to that, Malecki said. Between fiscal 2003 and 2006, the plant cut its electricity consumption by 6 percent and its fuel energy consumption by 12.3 percent, she added.

Gold predicted that significant change would come, although he said it would take time to change attitudes on Capitol Hill.

"We can't tell Capitol Power to stop burning coal as long as it's legal to do so," Katzenbargar said.

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Argus

Berkeley scientists call House 'energy hog'

By William Brand, STAFF WRITER

706 words

10 May 2007

The Oakland Tribune

English

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BERKELEY — The lights may burn long into the night in the U.S. **House** of Representatives office complex and the Capitol in Washington in coming months, but they just might be energy-efficient lights, thanks to the work of a team of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientists.

Not long after the Democrats took control of the **House**, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, perhaps in a not-so-subtle dig at the hands-off global-warming policies of the Bush administration, asked for a survey to find out what it would take to "green" **House** offices, that is, to modernize and streamline the buildings so they would have zero impact on the environment.

For technical help, **Chief Administrative Officer** Daniel Beard turned to Lawrence Berkeley, which has long had a reputation for unbiased, energy efficiency research.

The draft report's in, and it's not pretty.

The **House** office complex, which includes the **House** portion of the Capitol building, is an energy hog, clogged with obsolete appliances, electricity-sucking overhead lighting and leaky air conditioning and heating ducts. Worse, much of the electricity comes from high-polluting, coal-fired utility generators.

Evan Mills, leader of one Lawrence Berkeley team on the project, found the complex emitted about 91,000 tons of carbon dioxide in 2006, about the same amount as from

17,200 cars in a single year.

One easy recommendation: Change the lights. Swap energy-hungry incandescent lights for efficient, compact fluorescent lamps. "Immediately convert

2,000 desk lamps to CFLs ... with six months, convert the remaining 10,000 desk lamps to CFL," the scientists said.

That would be the equivalent of removing 255 cars from the road and result in \$245,000 a year in energy savings, lab scientist Francis Rubinstein discovered.

Changing light bulbs is relatively easy. From there on it gets stickier.

Christopher Payne, the lab's principle research associate in Washington, who shepherded the report, explains many of the **house** buildings are old. The Capitol is more than 200 years old; the Cannon **House** Office Building was built in 1908; and the Rayburn **House** Office Building was finished in 1965.

"These buildings are examples of what I would call 'federal monumental architecture,'" Payne said. "They're big, solid — this is the seat of power — buildings with very high ceilings and thick walls."

Unlike many commercial office buildings, **House** offices and meeting rooms tend to be used around the clock, seven days a week, he said.

Recommendations, besides light bulbs, include:

-Shift to 100 percent renewable electric power. The **House** uses about 103,000 megawatts of power a year and renewable power would cost about 20 percent more, but eliminate 57,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year, like removing 11,000 cars from the road.

-Install an ethanol tank and fueling pump and switch official **House** vehicles to ethanol within the next six months.

House vehicles may chug around on ethanol fairly soon, but don't look for solar panels to sprout on **House** rooftops anytime soon, Payne said. "There are 19 different agencies with authority over changes to buildings in the federal core and some of them have veto power," he said.

But the **House** is very interested in doing something soon, he said. It wants the changes accomplished before the end of the 110th Congress in 2008, he said. After all, who knows what voters will do then.

There's another bottom line item in the report. Even after taking all possible practical steps to cut polluting carbon emissions, the complex will still emit carbon dioxide. One answer, Beard, the administrative officer suggests, would be to purchase "pollution offset credits," making a payment to another entity to allow it to cut pollution, a process used by some of those polluting coal generators, for example.

Another idea would be for the **House** to contribute a per-ton payment to a "Green Revolving Fund" to pay for energy savings in the future. A final report — a requirement before the **House** takes action — is scheduled for release June 30.

The draft report can be found at <http://www.speaker.gov/pdf/GTCreport.pdf> .

Contact staff writer William Brand at bbrand@angnewspapers.com.

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GAO: Leg. Branch Emissions on the Rise

John McArdle

611 words

30 April 2007

Roll Call

English

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While Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) recently unveiled "Green the Capitol" initiative gave a snapshot of carbon emissions for the **House** of Representatives, a report released last week by the Government Accountability Office paints a broader picture of the greenhouse gases released by the entire legislative branch.

According to the GAO numbers, the **House** alone accounts for about 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the legislative branch. When the Senate and various support agencies are added in, about 316,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were created by legislative branch operations in fiscal 2006. That total is equivalent to the emissions produced by about 57,455 cars. It also represents an increase of about 4 percent, or about 12,400 metric tons, from the average annual quantity emitted in fiscal years 1998 to 2001, according to the GAO report.

In the past seven years, the legislative branch had one notable decrease in its emissions. From fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2004 greenhouse gases dropped 6 percent when the Architect of the Capitol briefly purchased renewable energy from its local provider for an eight-month period of time.

Like **House** emissions, the overall legislative branch's greenhouse gas emissions come from two main sources: 63 percent of emissions come from the consumption of purchased electricity and 32 percent come from the combustion of fossil fuels, including coal, in the Capitol Power Plant, which provides steam and chilled water to most legislative branch buildings.

Commissioned last year by members of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch, the GAO report not only inventories the greenhouse gas emissions produced by Congress and its various agencies - including the Library of Congress, Architect of the Capitol, Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office and GAO itself - but it also identifies several strategies for reducing those emissions.

Coming up with a baseline for emissions is important, the study notes, because while agencies within the executive branch of government have, in recent years, responded to executive orders to inventory their greenhouse gas emissions and set targets for reductions, "legislative branch agencies have not been required to inventory their emissions or implement an overall emissions reduction strategy, and they have not undertaken any comprehensive voluntary efforts."

As the title of the report notes, "Energy Audits Are Key to Strategy for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions." The GAO is recommending that the agencies that manage the operations of the legislative branch establish a schedule for routinely conducting energy audits to identify and evaluate energy-efficiency and renewable-energy projects and justify Congressional investments.

Other specific recommendations made by the GAO include curtailing energy use in Congressional buildings through employee education, purchasing energy-efficient appliances and equipment, purchasing renewable energy from local providers, adjusting the fuel mixture used at the Capitol Power Plant and purchasing energy offset credits.

Many of the GAO's recommendations mirror those advocated by **House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard**, who developed Pelosi's "Greening the Capitol" report. Pelosi's initiative took the step of setting a goal of operating the **House** in a "carbon neutral" environment by the end of the 110th Congress.

The GAO report explores the possibility of acquiring fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles for the legislative branch's fleet (excluding the Capitol Police Department) of 323 cars, trucks and vans.

One energy reduction program instituted by the GPO is a goal-sharing plan that splits the cost savings realized from energy curtailment efforts equally between the agency and its employees. According to the GPO, fiscal 2006 energy savings amounted to \$558,604, for an estimated award of \$126.27 per employee.

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NEWS

Capitol Hill runs hot and cold on coal use ; High-emission power plant clashes with green movement

LYNDSEY LAYTON, WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

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The Record

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English

© 2007 North Jersey Media Group Inc. Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning. All rights reserved.

WASHINGTON When **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi held a pre-Earth Day news conference last week to promote her plans to "Green the Capitol," she promised a number of steps to make the congressional campus a model of environmentalism.

But surrounded by boxes of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs she wants to install in 12,000 desk lamps, she became conspicuously vague when asked about the pair of towering smokestacks four blocks away.

The Capitol Power Plant, operated by Congress, is the only coal-burning plant in the District of Columbia and is a major source of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and soot in a city that has repeatedly been found in violation of the Clean Air Act.

But any efforts to eliminate coal have been thwarted by two of the most powerful figures in the Senate, who represent coal-producing states: Robert Byrd, D.-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

When the office of the Architect of the Capitol took a step in 2000 to eliminate coal from the fuel mix, the two lawmakers had a lot of say about the Architect's budget, and the discussions quickly ended.

Neither senator has any apologies for wanting the plant to continue using coal. "He'd like it to continue as the fuel source," spokesman Don Stewart said of McConnell, though he said the senator would review any recommendations from the Architect's office.

"As we break the chains of foreign oil, our reliance on resources that we have here at home will only expand," said Jenny Thalheimer, a spokeswoman for Byrd. "Technologies are available today that can burn coal more cleanly and more efficiently."

The plant has been called the "armpit of the Capitol" by Rep. James Moran, D-Va., who has repeatedly questioned why Congress continues to operate it. Lawmakers recently approved an \$85 million expansion so the plant can serve the Capitol Visitors Center, which is under construction.

Despite its name, the Capitol Power Plant, which opened in 1910, has not produced a watt of electricity since 1952; the Capitol complex buys its power from Pepco.

Instead, the plant generates steam and chilled water to heat and cool the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and 19 other structures. Steam and chilled water are carried in pipes through a web of tunnels.

In addition to coal, the Capitol Power Plant burns natural gas and fuel oil, which are less polluting. About 49 percent of the fuel burned at the plant is coal, 43 percent is natural gas, and the rest is oil, said Daniel Beard, **chief administrative officer** of the **House**.

Emissions from the power plant are regulated by the district government under an arrangement with the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The plant is required to report its emissions to the city, which says it is in compliance with its permit. Last year, the Capitol Power Plant burned 17,108 tons of coal.

The environmental permit allowing the plant to operate is issued by the city and is up for renewal.

In 2002, the most recent year for which figures were available from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Capitol Power Plant was the second-largest fixed source of sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide in the district. A Pepco plant was the largest.

Sulfur dioxide is a primary component of acid rain and an ingredient in smog. Carbon monoxide, a factor in smog and global warming, can cause breathing problems and damage plants.

No one knows how much carbon dioxide the greenhouse gas most closely associated with coal is emitted from the plant. The EPA has not required regulation of carbon dioxide emissions, said Joan Rohlf, chief air-quality planner for the council. A recent Supreme Court ruling has changed that, ordering the EPA to treat carbon dioxide as a pollutant.

According to the 2002 data, the Capitol Power Plant was the city's fourth-largest fixed source of nitrogen oxide, a precursor to smog that exacerbates respiratory diseases such as asthma. It was the third-biggest producer of fine particulates, which have been linked to lung cancer.

The percentage of adults with asthma living in the district in 2005 was 9.2 percent, compared with the national average of 8 percent, according to city officials. More than 11 percent of children had asthma, compared with 9 percent nationwide.

Eva Malecki, a spokeswoman for the Architect of the Capitol, repeatedly declined to answer questions about the plant and its emissions, citing security concerns. But she wrote in an e-mail that her agency has spent "and will be spending several millions of dollars" to reduce pollutants and improve efficiency. She pointed to improvements including the use in the 1990s of "baghouses," dust collectors that trap soot from coal combustion before the smoke is released into the air.

Pelosi, who attracted attention when she banned smoking in the Speaker's Lobby of the Capitol earlier this year, has not decided whether to push to drop coal from the power plant or make other changes.

The Architect of the Capitol and its power plant are overseen by both the **House** and the Senate.

Document REC0000020070427e34r0002c

NEWS

Reliance on coal tarnishes 'Green the Capitol' program / Two senators are blocking efforts to eliminate it

LYNDSEY LAYTON

Washington Post

598 words

25 April 2007

Houston Chronicle

3 STAR ; 0

4

English

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WASHINGTON - When **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi held a pre-Earth Day news conference last week to promote her plans to "Green the Capitol," she promised a number of steps to make the congressional campus a model of environmentalism.

But, surrounded by boxes of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs she wants to install in 12,000 desk lamps, she became conspicuously vague when asked about the pair of towering smokestacks four blocks away.

The Capitol Power Plant, operated by Congress, is the only coal-burning plant in the District of Columbia and is a major source of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and soot in a city that has repeatedly been found in violation of the Clean Air Act.

But any efforts to eliminate coal have been thwarted by two of the most powerful figures in the Senate, who just happen to represent coal-producing states: Robert Byrd, D.-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

When the office of the Architect of the Capitol took a step in 2000 to eliminate coal from the fuel mix, the two lawmakers had a lot of say about the Architect's budget, and the discussions quickly ended.

Neither senator has any apologies for wanting the plant to continue using coal. "He'd like it to continue as the fuel source," said spokesman Don Stewart of McConnell, though he said the senator would review any recommendations from the Architect's office.

"As we break the chains of foreign oil, our reliance on resources that we have here at home will only expand," said Jenny Thalheimer, a spokeswoman for Byrd. "Technologies are available today that can burn coal more cleanly and more efficiently."

The plant has been called the "armpit of the Capitol" by Rep. James Moran, D-Va., who has repeatedly questioned why Congress continues to operate it. Lawmakers recently approved a \$85 million expansion so the plant can serve the Capitol Visitors Center, which is under construction.

Despite its name, the Capitol Power Plant, which opened in 1910, has not produced a watt of electricity since 1952; the Capitol complex buys its power from Pepco.

Instead, the plant generates steam and chilled water to heat and cool the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and 19 other structures. Steam and chilled water are carried in pipes through a web of tunnels.

In addition to coal, the Capitol Power Plant burns natural gas and fuel oil, which are less polluting. About 49 percent of the fuel burned at the plant is coal, 43 percent is natural gas, and the rest is oil, said Daniel Beard, **chief administrative officer** of the **House**.

Emissions from the power plant are regulated by the District government under an arrangement with the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The plant is required to report its emissions to the city, which says it is in compliance with its permit. Last year, the plant burned 17,108 tons of coal.

The environmental permit allowing the plant to operate is issued by the city and is up for renewal.

In 2002, the most recent year for which figures were available, the Capitol Power Plant was the second-largest fixed source of sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide in the District. A Pepco plant was the

largest.

Photo: OPENED IN 1910: The Capitol Power Plant, which burns coal, is a major source of sulfur dioxide and other pollutants in Washington, D.C.

Document HOU0000020070426e34p0008e

CVC Watch
Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)... [Derived Headline]

John McArdle
745 words
24 April 2007
Roll Call
English

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) vowed in her newly announced "Green the Capitol" initiative that the **House** of Representatives will operate in a carbon-neutral environment by the end of the 110th Congress.

On Monday, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) pledged to bring the Senate, Library of Congress and all other Congressional buildings on Capitol Hill into carbon-neutral compliance by 2020.

Both plans include the Capitol Visitor Center in their visions for a more environmentally friendly Capitol, but it's not yet clear which timeframe the CVC would fall under or how much new work would be required for the yet-to-be-completed project to realize those visions.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard, who is heading up the carbon-neutral initiative for Pelosi, noted last week that when the CVC finally opens, "we won't just throw the doors open. We're going to have to offset the energy impact of that facility. ... That's our job."

But at the same time, the steam and chilled water that will be used at the CVC will be supplied by the Capitol Power Plant, a facility that relies on coal for 49 percent of its output and is one of the Washington, D.C.-area's largest sources of carbon emissions. According to numbers supplied by Beard's office, the Capitol Power Plant accounts for one-third of the **House's** greenhouse gas emissions.

Beard's plan calls for finding ways to offset the emissions of the power plant either through purchasing offset credits in the domestic market or contributing a "per ton payment" into a "Green Revolving Fund" that could be used to mitigate the plant's emissions.

In a statement Monday, Kerry seemed to hint at the possibility of doing away with the Capitol Power Plant altogether, or at the very least finding a new, cleaner way to run the aging facility.

"In the shadow of the nation's Capitol, we should expect more than a dirty power plant that pollutes the air and our communities," Kerry said. "It's time the Congress starts to walk the walk when it comes to fighting climate change and saving energy. The very plant that fuels our offices and the Capitol is contributing to high levels of pollution and affecting families who live in the city."

Any effort to shift the Capitol Power Plant away from its coal power sources may run into stiff opposition from powerful Congressional leaders like Sen. Robert Byrd (D), who hails from the coal mining state of West Virginia.

But as Congress begins to explore its options for dealing with the impact of the power plant, Members can at least find some comfort in the fact that as the newest addition to the Capitol, the 580,000-square-foot CVC, has numerous environmentally friendly technologies already built in.

"The Capitol Visitor Center was designed to incorporate as many green features as possible within the constraints of its unique security requirements," said CVC spokesman Tom Fontana.

For example, the new facility incorporates the compact fluorescent lighting fixtures that Beard championed in his report to **House** Democratic leadership last week. Beard is hoping to replace 12,000 desk lamps on the **House** side with compact fluorescent lights in the next six months.

Also, the CVC includes "air-side economizers," an air handling system that uses outside air for cooling in lieu of Capitol Power Plant-supplied chilled water when outdoor temperatures are 60 degrees or below.

In many of the CVC's interior spaces, including the facility's 26 restrooms, motion sensors trigger the light fixtures to cut down on energy usage. Outside the CVC, a storm-water management system was incorporated into the design of the facility to mitigate the impact of runoff and sediment into the city's storm sewer system.

And throughout the construction of the facility, the AOC has committed to recycling 50 percent of construction waste by weight.

"I would say that if we were going to make any changes, the CVC would be the last place we would start to make those changes," Beard said. "We have so many places, either on the **House** side of the Capitol or in the Cannon, Longworth, Rayburn and Ford buildings, where we need to make retrofits and changes that we would start there before we started on the CVC. The other buildings are older and need more work."

Document RLCL000020070425e34o0002u

San Francisco Chronicle

NEWS

Pelosi, Boxer work to make Capitol greener / Both lawmakers hope Congress sets example for nation

Edward Epstein
Chronicle Washington Bureau
794 words
20 April 2007

The San Francisco Chronicle

FINAL

A.6

English

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Saying she wants to set an environmental example for the rest of the country, Speaker Nancy Pelosi vowed Thursday to make the **House's** five buildings and 6 million square feet of space carbon-neutral by the end of 2008.

"I believe we have to get our own **house** in order before we launch a global warming initiative for the rest of the country," Pelosi, D- San Francisco, said in a Capitol conference room where the huge crystal chandelier had been outfitted with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Pelosi's Green the Capitol Initiative is mirrored in the Senate by the efforts of Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In addition to trying to increase energy efficiency in Senate buildings, Boxer is working with the General Services Administration on legislation to mandate new energy savings in thousands of federal buildings across the country.

The two houses of Congress are zealously independent of each other, but Pelosi said she hopes they can come together on energy- saving measures.

Getting Congress to act on its own carbon footprint would set a powerful example for the rest of the vast federal government that is the world's largest single consumer of energy, spending about \$14.5 billion a year on fuel for vehicles and heating, lighting and cooling buildings.

Pelosi's new effort envisions eliminating or offsetting the 91,000 tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions the **House** complex produces, as estimated made by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Electricity use accounts for 63 percent of the **House's** total emissions, while the Capitol's old power plant just a few blocks away from the complex of office buildings accounts for another 33 percent.

The plant, which burns coal and natural gas, produces steam to heat buildings and chilled water to cool them.

Pelosi's plan is to work with Potomac Electric Power, Washington's local utility, to buy 100 percent renewable power, such as that generated by the sun or the wind, which will cost about 20 percent more than traditional power.

But Daniel Beard, the **House's** new **chief administrative officer**, estimated in a report to Pelosi that the higher costs will be offset over time by energy conservation measures.

Beard estimated that switching to renewables will eliminate 57,000 tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of removing 11,000 cars from the roads.

Conservation measures include converting desk lamps and overhead lighting to energy-efficient fluorescents.

Beard also recommended that the **House** adopt sustainable practices, including buying only energy-efficient appliances and environmentally friendly building products. He also wants the **House** to install an E-85

ethanol-blend fuel station for **House** cars.

In the end, he said that in order to reach the goal of carbon neutrality, it will be necessary for the **House** to enter the new carbon-offset market to either purchase credits or make a per-ton payment into a green revolving fund to help pay for future cuts in emissions.

Congress already is considering what to do about the old power plant, but getting rid of it won't be easy because members of Congress from coal-producing states probably would oppose such a move.

Beard is working on a second report for Pelosi, who took office in early January, that is due by the end of June. He is considering more ambitious steps that include planting roof gardens, collecting and recycling rainwater from buildings, turning off more lights at night, promoting transit usage among **House** employees, repairing leaky roofs and fixing leaks in heating and air-conditioning systems.

Pelosi's effort at the Capitol comes as she is pushing the **House** to pass global warming legislation by this summer, a complicated task in which environmentalists are coming up against a variety of industries.

Boxer, on the Senate side, is working on legislation that would mirror California's landmark law to mandate reductions in greenhouse gases.

On the issue of energy efficiency, Boxer held a hearing last month on ways the government can make federal buildings more energy efficient.

David Winstead of the General Services Administration testified at the hearing that the agency is intensifying its efforts to improve federal buildings, which consume about 40 percent of all the energy consumed nationally. President Bush, through executive order, has already ordered the government to cut energy use and employ new technologies in buildings.

Winstead singled out the "remarkable" new office building at Seventh and Mission streets in San Francisco for its use of a variety of energy-saving techniques.

E-mail Edward Epstein at eedstein@sfchronicle.com.

Document SFC0000020070420e34k0005o

Beard to Present 'Green' Report Today

John McArdle

361 words

19 April 2007

Roll Call

English

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House Democratic leaders will receive a preliminary report today from their **Chief Administrative Officer, Dan Beard**, on recommendations for reducing the environmental impact of **House** office buildings.

The report stems from a request Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and **House** Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) made in early March in which they asked Beard to begin studying ways the Congressional campus can become more environmentally friendly.

Beard, who previously served as President Bill Clinton's Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, was tapped by Pelosi to serve as the **House's** CAO in February. While serving in the executive branch, he earned praise for his environmental efforts, including promoting water conservation among agricultural and urban water users. And even before he was sworn into his current post, Beard stressed the importance of reducing the carbon footprint and the environmental impacts of Congress.

"Environmental responsibility is our duty to future generations," Beard wrote in the executive summary of the report that will be delivered today. "Now is the appropriate time to act to reduce our energy consumption as well as our energy dependence."

Congress should set "the highest standards" for environmental stewardship and sustainable energy use, he wrote. "A sustainable **House** Capitol complex should recognize the full environmental impact of our decision on energy and water consumption, materials use and quality of our workplace."

While Beard's specific recommendations were not available Wednesday, he previously has discussed options for the new "Green the Capitol" initiative, including decreasing the amount of paper offices use and minimizing energy costs in office buildings.

Beard, who drives a Prius, also has said he is studying how officials can encourage Capitol Hill employees to get to work via mass transit or carpooling.

A more complete report is expected to be delivered in late June, but a Democratic source said Wednesday that one immediate step included in Beard's recommendations concerns the use of higher- efficiency lighting in **House** buildings. Another Hill source noted that AOC workers were replacing light bulbs in the Speaker's suites this week, which the source suggested signals the immediacy of the steps Pelosi has ordered.

Document RLCL000020070419e34j0000e

CAO Hearing Likely to Put Focus on Benefits

Elizabeth Brotherton

664 words

29 March 2007

Roll Call

English

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With budget numbers as its ultimate focus, a **House** Appropriations subcommittee meeting today is likely to center its discussion on issues that directly effect the people who work in the **House**, including increasing health benefits and child care services.

House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard will testify before the Appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch today on his budget request for fiscal 2008. The \$1.2 million request covers items not handled by a specific committee or office, with most of the money covering salaries and other expenses of the leadership offices of both parties and officers such as the Clerk, CAO, Parliamentarian, Chaplain and general counsel.

"I think one of the challenges we've had is that we're really in a flatline budget environment, and I think the Members want to know if we can cope with that," said Beard, who functions as the chamber's top administrative official.

But there also are a number of specific initiatives Beard has been put in charge of since becoming the CAO earlier this year that subcommittee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) and other panel members could ask about today.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) have asked Beard to study ways the Congressional campus can become more environmentally friendly, for example.

Among the options being considered: decreasing the amount of paper offices use and minimizing energy costs in Congressional office buildings.

Appropriators likely will ask "where we are with the review, and if there are any implications in what it is we are looking at," Beard said.

The duo also asked Beard to study ways to expand services at the **House** Child Care Center, located in the Ford Office Building. The center provides day-care services to employees of the **House**, but its capacity is limited.

"There are 75 families being served by the day-care center," Beard said. "And there are 78 on the waiting list."

Improving the child care center was a major goal Beard identified when he first took the job, and his office has spent the past few weeks reviewing various options for increasing capacity.

Beard added that he already has spoken with Wasserman Schultz about the situation, partly because she has a link to child care.

"She has three little kids," he said.

Employee benefits also could come up at the hearing, Beard said. Turnover rates are high in the **House**, mostly for entry-level positions, in part because the **House** does not offer the same perks as private-sector companies.

"It's partly because we don't pay well, and working conditions are a challenge," Beard said. "We can't do much about pay, and we can't do much about space, but I can look at things like benefits, and I want to do that."

The **House** currently does not offer employees things such as tuition reimbursement and transit benefits, Beard said, adding that disability, dental and eye care benefits also aren't as good compared with private-sector jobs, but these are areas that could be addressed.

"There's always more you can do on the benefits side," he added.

Panel members also are likely to ask about business continuity in the chamber, Beard said, explaining that Members want to know that if some sort of major disaster were to take place on the Capitol grounds, key legislative functions could continue.

"A lot of effort has been made to improve the business continuity issues, with respect to the **House** of Representatives and all the offices," Beard said. "That is always an issue that comes up."

A veteran of the **House**, Senate and private-sector, government- related organizations, Beard last appeared before a budget panel more than a decade ago, he said. But he added that he is excited to testify once again.

"I'm having a terrific time. ... The leadership on both sides has been very supportive," he said.

Document RLCL000020070329e33t00034

Leaders Ask Beard for a 'Greener' House

Elizabeth Brotherton

582 words

5 March 2007

Roll Call

English

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Responding to a request from **House** leaders, **Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard** will spend the next few months working with other Congressional officials to come up with new ways to make the Capitol more Earth-friendly.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D- Md.) and **House** Administration Chairwoman Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.) wrote to the CAO last week to ask him to study how Congress can operate on a more environmentally sound basis.

The three directed Beard to provide a preliminary report on his findings by April 30, with final recommendations finished by June 30.

"The Capitol complex should lead the nation in preserving our planet for future generations," they wrote.

In an interview Friday, Beard said he is looking forward to working with other Congressional officials on the study.

"We're very excited about being able to undertake this review," Beard said. "Companies all over America do this on a regular basis."

The lawmakers specifically directed Beard to "include recommendations for benchmarking existing conditions; setting meaningful and measurable goals; timetables for implementing various changes in operating conditions; and measures to report progress on a regular basis."

The CAO should work with the Architect of the Capitol's office, the Appropriations Committee, **House** Administration and Senate officials, the letter reads.

Beard will look at three main areas he thinks can promote eco- friendly methods, he said.

First, there's the buildings.

The **House** already promotes an energy conservation program, Beard said. Buildings employ motion-detector switches for lights so they go off when rooms are empty, and lights shut off when rooms are bright enough because sunlight is shining through windows.

AOC spokeswoman Eva Malecki said there already are benchmarks that officials are following to reduce their energy costs.

The AOC's office has exceeded those benchmarks, Malecki said, in part because of smaller maneuvers such as replacing windows with air- tight ones, installing low-flow pumping in restrooms, and replacing elevator and escalator equipment with energy-saving materials whenever routine maintenance is needed anyway.

"We're doing simple things that people can do in their homes," Malecki said.

There could be similar conservation methods just waiting to be undertaken: "These are the normal kinds of things that you look at, and are really now excepted," Beard said.

Business practices in individual offices and facilities also will be studied, Beard said. The materials Congressional employees currently use could be replaced, for example.

"We use a lot of paper," he said. "We have a waste-stream that comes from a lot of activity. How can we reduce that?"

The third area perhaps will be the most complicated to study: the 10,000 or so people who work in **House**

offices and buildings.

One area Beard specifically will study is how officials can encourage employees to get to work via mass transit or carpooling, he said.

Most companies regularly analyze this area, Beard said, pointing to one of America's largest corporations: Wal-Mart.

"They are capturing sunlight, and reducing, and doing everything they can for their energy costs," he said. "It makes good business sense."

It will not be the first time Beard, appointed by Pelosi to be the **House's** head administrative official in January, will review environmental policy.

When Beard worked as commissioner of the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, he earned praise for his environmental efforts, including promoting water conservation among agricultural and urban water users.

Document RLCL000020070305e33500008

Pelosi wants D.C. to have White House, green Capitol

By Margaret Talev
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
545 words
4 March 2007
Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, CA)
F4
English
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WASHINGTON

The U.S. Capitol is a national symbol, but when it comes to energy efficiency, it's no role model. It's overheated in the winter, lighted by thousands of bulbs, brimming with copy paper and short on recycling containers.

Now **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, is tapping the **chief administrative officer** of the **House** of Representatives to launch a "green" initiative that recommends ways to make the Capitol complex cleaner and more energy efficient.

She has asked **Dan Beard**, who has been on the job for only a month but who has decades of conservation experience, to put together a preliminary set of recommendations by the end of April.

"There's a host of things in the green-building area that companies and institutions all over America are doing on a regular basis," said Beard, 63, who has served as President Clinton's Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, a National Audubon Society official and a private management consultant.

"We're going to look at what can we implement over what time period, how much energy would it save and how much would it cost." He will consult with Senate officials and the Architect of the Capitol. He will also look to states such as California that have embraced green initiatives at their capitols and state universities, and to companies as large as Wal-Mart.

For Pelosi, the initiative meshes with an environmentalist legacy that she seems keen on shaping.

Since her swearing-in two months ago, she has banned smoking from the speaker's lobby off the **House** floor and announced plans to push for **House** passage of anti-global-warming legislation that could put emissions limits on cars and buildings.

This isn't the first effort to make the Capitol, whose construction began more than 200 years ago, more energy efficient. Energy legislation passed two years ago under the Republican-controlled Congress tasked the Architect of the Capitol's office with promoting energy conservation activities.

The office already was moving in that direction. Since 2003, energy consumption is down 6 percent in the complex, which includes the Capitol building and multiple Senate and **House** office buildings, said spokeswoman Eva Malecki.

That has been achieved through the gradual introduction of fluorescent light bulbs, motion detectors that turn off lights in empty rooms, low-flow toilets and air-tight windows.

Although the focus of the Architect of the Capitol is the historic buildings, Beard's scope is broader.

He will look at whether asphalt in the Capitol's parking lots should be replaced with gravel or bricks to minimize runoff. He will survey how many of the roughly 10,000 **House** employees are taking advantage of programs that reward them for taking public transportation to work instead of cars.

He will look at the origin, efficiency and disposal methods of office supplies, computers, telephones and food services.

"Are we purchasing the right kind of products from vendors that are promoting sustainable practices?" he said. "The Capitol is a very difficult building to heat, cool, light. And it's a national symbol, so it's not

something you can just rip apart and redo. It's a challenge."

Document CCT0000020070304e33400017

A

A greener U.S. capitol; ENERGY EFFICIENCY | House speaker makes conservation push; Work will build on environmental efforts already put in place.

By MARGARET TALEV
McClatchy Newspapers
536 words
3 March 2007
The Kansas City Star

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2

English

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image/jpeg | DCGH103_03-03-2007_RGR3P6Q.jpg | **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (foreground) has

pushed for a "green" initiative to make the Capitol complex cleaner and more energy-efficient. | GERALD HERBERT | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Document KCST000020070305e3330003e

NATION

Democrats want Capitol Hill as a 'green' beacon for planet

Christina Bellantoni, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

377 words

3 March 2007

The Washington Times

A02

English

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Democratic leaders yesterday called for the "greening" of buildings on Capitol Hill, saying politicians have the responsibility to preserve the planet.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has led a charge to fight global warming, and other top Democrats wrote a letter to the **chief administrative officer** of the **House** asking him to embark on a "Green the Capitol" initiative.

"The Capitol complex should lead the nation in preserving our planet for future generations," the Democrats wrote to Daniel P. Beard yesterday.

The letter was signed by Mrs. Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland and Juanita Millender-McDonald of California, the chairman of the **House** Administration Committee.

The Democrats asked Mr. Beard to provide them with a preliminary report by April 30 and a final report by June 30 on ways to conserve energy inside the Capitol and its adjoining congressional offices.

"We are writing to direct you to undertake a critical initiative to address energy conservation, efficiency and cost savings," they wrote. "The **House** of Representatives should provide leadership to the nation in providing an environmentally responsible and healthy working environment for our employees."

They suggested Mr. Beard coordinate with his Senate counterparts, the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol Office. Among their requests was to ensure the **House** has the most up-to-date standards for green building efforts.

It is the latest move highlighting Democrats' plans to take action on climate change. Mrs. Pelosi has created a special panel to study global warming and took the rare step of testifying before the Science and Technology Committee on the topic last month.

On the Senate side, there is bipartisan consensus that legislation is necessary to curb carbon emissions, though a method for achieving drastic reduction is far from agreed upon.

Former Vice President Al Gore, whose film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth," won an Oscar, plans to testify on Capitol Hill this month and deliver hundreds of thousands of postcards he has collected from citizens demanding a climate-change bill.

Caption: **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading an effort to turn Capitol Hill into a model for "green" government. [Photo by Agence France-Presse/Getty Images]

Document WATI000020070305e33300006

NEWS

'Green' initiative targets Capitol's energy efficiency

MARGARET TALEV

McClatchy-Tribune

248 words

3 March 2007

Houston Chronicle

2 STAR ; 0

10

English

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WASHINGTON - The U.S. Capitol is a national symbol, but when it comes to energy efficiency, it's no role model. It's overheated in the winter, lighted by thousands of bulbs, brimming over with copy paper and short on recycling containers.

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He'll consult with Senate officials and the Architect of the Capitol. He'll also look to states such as California that have embraced green initiatives at their capitols.

...

CONSERVATION

Energy legislation passed two years ago under the Republican- controlled Congress tasked the Architect of the Capitol's office with promoting energy conservation activities.

Use : Since 2003, energy consumption is down 6 percent in the complex, said spokeswoman Eva Malecki.

Light bulbs: That's been achieved through the gradual introduction of fluorescent light bulbs, motion detectors that turn off lights in empty rooms, low-flow toilets and air-tight windows.

Document HOU0000020070304e3330003f

San Francisco Chronicle

NEWS

Pelosi, Boxer turn up heat to make the Hill green / They want Congress' buildings to become national models of energy efficiency

Edward Epstein
Chronicle Washington Bureau
1,107 words
3 March 2007
The San Francisco Chronicle
FINAL
A.1

English

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and California Sen. Barbara Boxer are using their new power to turn Capitol Hill green.

Their goal, which they say should set an example for others across the country, is to make Congress' vast complex of buildings more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

The effort grows out of the two leaders' concern over global warming, an issue they hope to address in legislation that the new Democratic Congress could pass this year.

Their actions also reflect a nationwide boom in interest in green buildings that reduce their impact on the environment.

The San Francisco Democratic speaker sent a letter Friday to the **House chief administrative officer**, directing him to report back to her by April 30 on how a "Green the Capitol" initiative could be implemented. She said she wants the **House**, which has about 10,000 employees scattered across several million square feet of office space, to institute "the most up-to-date industry and government standards for green building and green operating procedures."

On the Senate side of the Capitol, Democrat Boxer has used her role as the new chairwoman of the Environment and Public Works Committee to initiate a pilot program to get senators to adopt more energy-efficient lighting in their offices.

So far, seven Senate offices have joined hers in a pilot program to install "dimnable ballast" lights that sense the brightness of outside light and dim or intensify internal lighting accordingly. The change can cut electricity use an estimated 50 percent.

Boxer also is pushing a bill to accelerate energy-efficiency retrofits in federal office buildings across the country.

"I think it's fantastic," Doug Catlin of the U.S. Green Building Council said of the efforts to address energy use in buildings that, in the case of the Capitol itself, date back two centuries.

"People look to their members of Congress to be leaders, to set an example," said Catlin, head of the nonprofit council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program for existing buildings. The program is a rating system for the adoption of green materials and environmentally friendly operating practices in buildings.

Even before Pelosi's letter, other **House** leaders had begun studying how to turn their offices into more efficient users of energy. Catlin was recently asked by the staff of the **House** Science and Technology Committee to go over its space in the 42-year-old Rayburn **House** Office Building, by far the biggest of the Capitol's office buildings with 2.4 million square feet of office space.

The other two office buildings for **House** members are older. The Cannon Building, with 672,000 square feet, opened in 1908, and the 600,000-square-foot Longworth Building opened in 1935.

The historic Capitol itself, which throughout much of its 207-year history has been a construction zone, is

undergoing a vast underground expansion along its east front for a half-million- square-foot visitors' center that will also include more office space.

Senators are dispersed among three office buildings.

Catlin said that much could be done to save energy in the H- shaped Rayburn Building without spending a lot of money. He said the building's system of heating for Washington's winters and famously hot and swampy summers probably could be fine-tuned to use less energy without replacing lots of equipment.

Even if expensive heating and air conditioning systems have to be replaced, Catlin said the government might be able to save money by using "performance contracting," in which private firms would finance the equipment and would be paid back out of the energy saved by the upgrades.

Security concerns prevent lawmakers from opening most of the windows of the Capitol and their office buildings.

Catlin said lighting could be upgraded, much as Boxer is starting to do in the Senate, and motion detectors could be installed in offices to turn off lights when no one is present.

He said that in many cases, a lot of energy, and dollars, can be saved by improved metering of energy use. That makes people aware of how much energy they're using and increases the likelihood they'll conserve.

Catlin said windows could be coated on the outside with ultraviolet-reducing film to reduce heat entering buildings and keep out harmful UV rays.

And he suggested that office cleaning could be switched to daytime so that lights could be turned off at night, although when Congress is in session staffers work late into the evening.

Buildings that follow the council's green design standards use one-third less energy than their conventional counterparts, which translates into a lot of energy in a nation with about 4.5 million commercial buildings encompassing 72 billion square feet of space. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that buildings use more than 70 percent of the nation's electricity and more than 50 percent of its natural gas.

And if the **House** wants to get more exotic, it could install solar panels to make electricity or to heat water or could plant roof gardens to keep buildings cooler in the summer and capture storm water runoff.

In Pelosi's letter, which also was signed by **House** Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, D- Carson (Los Angeles County), who chairs the **House** Administration Committee, **House** officials were told to report on current conditions in the buildings and offer a timetable for improvements. Money for the work would have to be appropriated by Congress.-----

Greening the Capitol

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco has asked the **chief administrative officer** of the **House** to recommend by April 30 ways the Capitol and lawmakers' offices can establish "green building and green operating procedures" to reduce energy use, become more environ-

mentally friendly and save money.

Here are some suggestions from an expert, Doug Catlin of the U.S. Green Building Council:

- Place motion detectors in lights.
- Fine-tune heating and air-conditioning systems to use less often.
- Coat windows on the outside with ultraviolet-reducing film to reduce heat entering buildings and keep out harmful UV rays.
- Plant more trees nearby to shade the buildings and lower the inside temperature during the capital's hot, humid summer.
- Place solar panels on the roofs.
- Clean the buildings during the day so lights can be off at night.

E-mail Edward Epstein at eedstein@sfchronicle.com.

GRAPHIC; Caption: / Illustration by Tracy Cox / The Chronicle

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A

Speaker calls for energy efficiency; Pelosi pushes green initiative at Capitol

By Margaret Talev
Washington Bureau
549 words
3 March 2007
Sun-News
TSN
3

English
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1/83/8

WASHINGTON | The U.S. Capitol is a national symbol, but when it comes to energy efficiency, it's no role model. It's overheated in the winter, lighted by thousands of bulbs, brimming over with copy paper and short on recycling containers.

Now **House** Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is tapping the **chief administrative officer** of the **House** of Representatives to launch a "green" initiative that recommends ways to make the Capitol complex cleaner and more energy efficient.

She's asked **Dan Beard**, who's been on the job for only a month but who has decades of conservation experience, to put together a preliminary set of recommendations by the end of April.

"There's a host of things in the green-building area that companies and institutions all over America are doing on a regular basis," said Beard, 63, who has served as President Clinton's Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, a National Audubon Society official and a private management consultant.

"We're going to look at what can we implement over what time period, how much energy would it save and how much would it cost." He'll consult with Senate officials and the Architect of the Capitol. He'll also look to states such as California that have embraced green initiatives at their capitols and state universities, and to companies as large as Wal-Mart.

For Pelosi, the initiative meshes with an environmentalist legacy that she seems keen on shaping. Since her swearing-in two months ago, she has banned smoking from the speaker's lobby off the **House** floor and announced plans to push for **House** passage of anti-global-warming legislation that could put emissions limits on cars and buildings.

This isn't the first effort to make the Capitol, whose construction began more than 200 years ago, more energy efficient. Energy legislation passed two years ago under the Republican-controlled Congress tasked the Architect of the Capitol's office with promoting energy conservation activities.

The office already was moving in that direction. Since 2003, energy consumption is down 6 percent in the complex, which includes the Capitol building and multiple Senate and **House** office buildings, said spokeswoman Eva Malecki.

That's been achieved through the gradual introduction of fluorescent light bulbs, motion detectors that turn off lights in empty rooms, low-flow toilets and airtight windows.

While the focus of the Architect of the Capitol is the historic buildings, Beard's scope is broader.

He'll look at whether asphalt in the Capitol's parking lots should be replaced with gravel or bricks to minimize runoff. He'll survey how many of the roughly 10,000 **House** employees are taking advantage of programs that reward them for taking public transportation to work instead of cars.

He'll also look at the origin, efficiency and disposal methods of office supplies, computers, telephones and food services.

"Are we purchasing the right kind of products from vendors that are promoting sustainable practices?" he said. "The Capitol is a very difficult building to heat, cool, light. And it's a national symbol, so it's not something you can just rip apart and redo. It's a challenge."

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A

Pelosi wants 'green' Capitol; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has called for an initiative to improve energy efficiency at the Capitol. WASHINGTON

BY MARGARET TALEV
mtalev@mcclatchydc.com

452 words
3 March 2007
The Miami Herald
FL

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English

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PROMOTING CONSERVATION

Asection

Pelosi: Make Capitol green; House speaker wants complex to be cleaner, more energy efficient

MARGARET TALEV

McClatchy Newspapers

346 words

3 March 2007

Charlotte Observer (NC)

1st

10A

English

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Pelosi wants a greener Capitol; BROAD EFFORT WILL EXTEND TO COMMUTES AND PARKING LOTS

By Margaret Talev
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
444 words
3 March 2007
The Lexington Herald Leader

a6

English

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WASHINGTON

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LETTERS

There's No 'Mess'

377 words

8 February 2007

Roll Call

English

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I followed with keen interest the debate on the resolution electing the new Clerk of the **House** and **Chief Administrative Officer**. I applaud Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) for her splendid choice of Lorraine Miller to be Clerk and Daniel Beard to be **Chief Administrative Officer**.

The Speaker has demonstrated great discernment and care for the affairs of the **House**. I served as the Clerk from 1987 to 1995 when the Clerk's duties included those now performed by the CAO. As the chief financial, budget and disbursing officer of the **House** I took great pains to see that the accounts and disbursements were handled with the greatest integrity and efficiency.

Each year I invited the General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office) to perform a complete audit of the Office of Finance. The audit reports that I received from the comptroller general, which are public record, consistently stated that the accounts and disbursements of the **House** were kept according to the highest government accounting standards, practices and regulations. There were no irregularities nor were any funds lost or unaccounted for during my stewardship.

Yet reference continues to be made to the "outside" audit initiated by GOP leaders when they assumed the majority in 1995 in which it is said that records were kept on 3-by-5-inch cards, paper ledgers and loose pages with numerous pencil entries and erasures. Nonsense! I would have fired on the spot anyone responsible for such practices had they occurred.

I have had grave reservations about "revelations" contained in the "independent" audit since I left the office 12 years ago. Is it likely that years of GAO audits could fail to make these discoveries? I left the finances of the **House** and the dozens of other responsibilities entrusted to my stewardship in perfect order and am offended by the suggestion that they were otherwise. On the occasion of my retirement after nearly 40 years of service to the **House**, I received high praise from the Republican leadership for the character of my service and the bipartisan spirit in which I carried it out. Enough of this red herring about the "mess" in the Office of Finance!

Donnald K. Anderson

Former Clerk of the **House**

Document RLCL000020070208e3280000f

Beard Unretires (Again) to be CAO

John McArdle
1,441 words
8 February 2007
Roll Call
English

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Last in a three-part series profiling the **House** officers.

Somehow retirement just doesn't seem to stick for **Dan Beard**, who will take over the job of the **Chief Administrative Officer** of the **House** next week.

Beard has attempted to retire multiple times after serving for more than three decades in a variety of public and private sector jobs, but somehow new opportunities keep finding him.

Most recently, after serving the past several years as a senior adviser at the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, the 63-year-old Beard decided to leave the working world behind and write a book about water issues in the Western United States. It's a subject close to his heart after his years working on natural resource issues and serving as a commissioner at the Bureau of Reclamation.

After finishing the manuscript, Beard, a native of Washington state who now resides in Maryland, was in the process of searching for a publisher last month when a call came in from the office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). On the other end was Pelosi's chief of staff, John Lawrence, whom Beard knew from their days working together in Rep. George Miller's (D-Calif.) office. Lawrence asked if Beard would come in for an interview with Pelosi for the CAO job, a patronage post created by the then-new Republican majority in 1995 that is one of the three top **House** officer positions.

"The one thing [Pelosi] wanted to know is if I fully understood the job and really wanted to do this because this is a far-flung institution and a tough job," Beard said of his subsequent interview. "And I told her I was going into this with my eyes wide open and I was fully prepared."

Looking back, Beard reflected on a career that began with the Congressional Research Service and took him to the **House**, the Senate, the White **House** and even the National Audubon Society.

"I've run large organizations with 8,000 employees and I've run small organizations. I've run for-profit organizations, nonprofit organizations and I've run government agencies," Beard said. "So I have a lot of experience leading organizations and managing organizations, and I think the best way to say this is all the things that I've done over my long career have really led me to this position."

In a release last week announcing that Beard had been selected to replace Jay Eagen - the man who for almost a decade has been in charge of managing **House** technology initiatives, food service contracts and generally keeping the trains running on time - Pelosi said, "**Dan Beard's** years of work in the many facets of our government ... provide him with vast management experience that is necessary to run the crucial functions of the **House**."

But in the week since that announcement, Republicans have been less than pleased about the appointment of Beard, who in the early 1990s served as a Democratic staff director for the then-**House** Interior Committee.

During statements on the **House** floor this week, Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.), the ranking member of the **House** Administration Committee, and other Republican lawmakers said that their concerns over Beard's appointment lie not in his abilities but in the fact that Pelosi did not use the same search process that was used to find Eagen in 1997. At that time an outside search firm was selected and overseen by a special, partisan-neutral Congressional commission.

"I have serious concerns about the lack of transparency and the selection process that have resulted in [Beard's] appointment," Ehlers said Tuesday. "I think this new appointee is going to owe his allegiance to only one person, that is the Speaker of the **House**, and I don't believe that is the best way to operate the **House** of Representatives."

"I do not question the credentials of Mr. Beard," Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said. "Will he make a great CAO? I do not know, quite frankly, because he has never come before us. ... We have actually done a disjustice to him, because [a bipartisan selection process] would empower that office in a bipartisan

manner."

When asked about those concerns on Tuesday, after the **House** passed a resolution making his appointment official on Feb. 15, Beard said that "there really isn't any partisanship in whether you get somebody a paycheck."

"That isn't a partisan function or issue and so we don't have to worry about that. And that's really what this job entails," he added. "It's all those functions and activities. They are important to the legislative process, they are fundamentally important to the operation of the institution, but they don't need to be run in a partisan way."

He said that because the CAO's office is so large and because it touches every part of the institution, it must be an agency devoted to professionalism and not politics.

"I think all I can say is, I will try to be myself," Beard said. "I enter this position knowing full well what [Eagen] has done in the past and because I was here under the old system I know what that can be like. ... The CAO is responsible for putting together, justifying and delivering and then monitoring the implementation of the budget of the **House** of Representatives, which is \$1.2 billion. ... You want that to be run as effectively and efficiently as possible."

And because there are so many functions and activities taking place in the CAO's office that are so diverse, "you have to be brutal about setting priorities," Beard said.

But "in this position you don't set priorities by yourself. You set them in consultation with the Democratic and Republican leadership, with the Committee on **House** Administration, the Appropriations Committees" and all of the various Congressional stakeholders, he said.

One priority that Beard said he hopes to stress to his 435 new bosses stems from his lifelong interest in natural resource management issues.

"There have been so many significant changes in technology and business process that allow us to operate an institution with a greener perspective," he said. "Businesses and institutions that have moved in that direction have found that it reduces costs, it improves the quality of the air for their employees, and that it reduces the carbon footprint and the environmental impacts associated with that."

He also said he wants to expand the capacity and services offered by the **House** day care facility in the near future.

"I really think the **House** should have the best day care facility that we can," he said. "We have a day care center in the Ford Building but it's a capacity problem. ... People that work here work long hours for low pay in pretty tough working conditions. ... And if you throw on top of that that they have a child and then they can't find day care services close by that are reliable, I just don't think that's right."

Beard's other initial priority will be to continue the work Eagen has done to build a CAO that is customer service-based.

"I want to make sure that we continue that focus, that we provide the best possible services we can for the Members, the committees and the offices that are here," he said. "We want to measure our progress of how well we are doing and improve on that."

And as Beard returns to Capitol Hill this month after two attempted retirements and a couple of private sector jobs, he gave credit to Eagen for making the CAO office the professional organization that it's become since he left the Hill in the 1990s. (Beard noted that Eagen will stay with the office until the end of May to ensure a smooth transition.)

"The biggest change has been the CAO," Beard said. "The nonlegislative functions are much improved. There's a Starbucks now. Under the old system we would not have had that. We would have still had lunches that would have consisted of cold meatloaf and gravy and mashed potatoes. There's a long way to go with food services and all the other parts of it, but this is a more customer-focused organization and more accommodating of the needs of the employees than we've ever had before."

"There's so many things like that that have changed in the last 10 years that have been really remarkable and I think are real improvements to the institution."

Document RLCL000020070208e32800005

Pelosi Picks New Clerk And CAO

Susan Davis and John McArdle

449 words

31 January 2007

Roll Call

English

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has tapped Lorraine Miller to serve as the Clerk of the **House** for the 110th Congress and is expected to announce today that **Dan Beard** will serve as the new **Chief Administrative Officer**.

Miller will succeed Karen Haas, who was appointed by then- Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), while Beard will replace Jay Eagen, who has served in his post since 1997. Pelosi had asked both Haas and Eagen to stay on until permanent replacements were found.

Miller has more than 20 years of Capitol Hill experience, including tenures in the offices of Pelosi and former Speakers Jim Wright (D-Texas) and Tom Foley (D-Wash.), as well as Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.). She also worked in the legislative affairs shop at the White **House** under then-President Bill Clinton and has served stints at both the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission.

Miller has been president of the Washington, D.C., National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter since 2004, and she will be the first black person to hold the office of Clerk.

"Lorraine Miller has dedicated her career to the noble calling of public service, with her vast experience in both the **House** of Representatives and White **House** preparing her for this vital role," Pelosi said in a statement.

According to a Democratic leadership aide, Beard, who most recently served as a senior adviser for the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., will replace Eagen sometime in February.

According to a biography on the Web site of the Bureau of Reclamation, where Beard served as a commissioner in the mid-1990s, he is a native of Washington state who worked for then-Rep. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) on the **House** Appropriations subcommittee on the Interior and related agencies in the mid-1970s. He served as deputy assistant secretary of the Interior for land and water resources from 1977 to 1980 and acted as staff director of **House** Interior subcommittee on water and power from 1985 to 1990.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.), ranking member of the **House** Administration Committee, which oversees the Clerk and CAO offices, said Tuesday night that Republicans were still trying to learn more about Miller and Beard before commenting on their appointments. But she did say that Ehlers was disappointed by "the lack of process" by which the selection of the CAO was made.

"Last time we went through a search process where we used an outside search firm to ensure we got the best possible candidates for the CAO. That didn't happen this time," she said.

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