

New FEMP Guiding Principles Tool

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2016 Guiding Principles – *FEMP Tools*

The Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) provides guidance to help agencies comply with the 2016 Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings.

<https://energy.gov/eere/femp/guiding-principles-sustainable-federal-buildings>

FEMP currently has 2 sets GP products developed to help Agencies:

1. 2016 Guiding Principles Crosswalks (NC/M & EB)

- Two crosswalk guidance documents to explain and highlight the differences between the 2016 and 2008 versions of the Guiding Principles.

<https://energy.gov/eere/femp/downloads/2016-guiding-principles-sustainable-federal-buildings-updates-crosswalks>

2. 2016 Guiding Principles Checklists (NC/M & EB)

- Two checklists for agencies that want to voluntarily evaluate and track building progress toward meeting the metrics defined by Determining Compliance with the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings. The checklists provide a quick and easy way to track building performance and can be used as is or reformatted to suit an agency's needs.

<https://energy.gov/eere/femp/downloads/guiding-principles-checklists-new-construction-and-modernization-and-existing>

2016 Guiding Principles – *FEMP Tools*

FEMP will be releasing a NEW product during Energy Exchange 2017 to further assist and guide Agencies in understanding and complying with the Guiding Principles.

Two new “*Guiding Principles Frequently Asked Questions*” guides.

New Construction or Modernization

2016 Guiding Principles for New Construction or Modernization Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)		
U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program Version 1 released 7/15/2017		
FAQs for the Guiding Principles for New Construction and Modernization and for the Guiding Principles for Existing Buildings are found on separate tabs. Each tab includes a section for general topic areas and a section broken out by Guiding Principle. To ask a new question, contact Nic Baker, nicolas.baker@ee.doe.gov. These FAQs will be updated quarterly.		
General Topic Areas	#	Question
Compliance	1	Is LEED, Green Globes or other third-party certification required?
		Answer: No, unless the building is subject to an agency-specific requirement for third-party certification.
Compliance	2	Is verification by a third-party required to meet the Guiding Principles?
		Answer: No. Each agency is responsible for evaluating its buildings and ensuring that sufficient evidence and documentation is readily available to demonstrate compliance with the Guiding Principles. This could be done internally or through a third-party. Determinations of compliance should be made on a building-by-building basis.
Compliance	3	Can LEED, Green Globes or other third-party certifications be used as an alternative means to meet the Guiding Principles?
		Answer: Yes, as long as each required Guiding Principle is met. The Guiding Principles and other green building rating systems have similar credits and requirements, and in some cases, achieving a third-party credit is equivalent to meeting a Guiding Principle requirement. In these cases, documentation developed to meet the requirements of third party green building rating systems can be used to document compliance with the Guiding Principles. In other cases, third party systems don't address all of the Guiding Principles' elements and sub-elements. Therefore, it is necessary to verify that all Guiding Principles are met when using a third-

Existing Buildings

2016 Guiding Principles for Existing Buildings Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)		
U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program Version 1 released 7/15/2017		
FAQs for the Guiding Principles for New Construction and Modernization and for the Guiding Principles for Existing Buildings are found on separate tabs. Each tab includes a section for general topic areas and a section broken out by Guiding Principle. To ask a new question, contact Nic Baker, nicolas.baker@ee.doe.gov. These FAQs will be updated quarterly.		
General Topic Areas	#	Question
Compliance	1	Do existing buildings that met the 2008 Guiding Principles need to be re-certified?
		Answer: No. Buildings that were determined to have met the 2008 Guiding Principles are considered to meet the Guiding Principles through FY 2025 as long as they meet the 6th Guiding Principle introduced in the 2016 version, and continue to meet ongoing requirements. Ongoing requirements include Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) section 432 requirements for quadrennial evaluations, ongoing commissioning, benchmarking, and operating and maintenance (O&M) requirements. O&M requirements refers to statutory requirements for purchasing (ENERGY STAR, Biobased, low-emitting, etc.), waste diversion, indoor air quality, and climate resilience/adaptation.
Compliance	2	According to the guidance, buildings that met the 2008 Guiding Principles should continue to meet ongoing requirements such as EISA 432 requirements including quadrennial evaluations, ongoing commissioning, benchmarking, and operating and maintenance requirements. What, specifically, are these 'operating and maintenance' requirements?
		Answer: Ongoing requirements include Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) section 432 requirements for quadrennial evaluations, ongoing commissioning, benchmarking, and operating and maintenance (O&M) requirements. O&M requirements refers to statutory requirements for purchasing (ENERGY STAR, Biobased, low-emitting, etc.), waste diversion, indoor air quality, and climate resilience/adaptation.

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Concept of the FAQs Guide

	#	Question	Answer
General Topic Areas			
5 Specific Topic Areas <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance 2. Life Cycle Cost 3. Applicability 4. Documentation 5. Specific GPs 	1	Specific question that FEMP has received from Agency trainings/feedback/meetings multiple times or on a topic where significant confusion has occurred.	FEMP SMEs have developed recommended responses to provide guidance and interpretations that have been reviewed in part with OMB/CEQ and other Agencies.

NOTE: These FAQs try and help clarify common questions we have gotten, however while some are straight forward responses, interpretation questions are based on FEMPs sustainability best practices recommendation.

Ultimately Agencies sustainability's programs are responsible to ensure their projects are cost effective and follow sustainable design principles to the full extent as possible.

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Examples:

	#	Question	Answer
General Topic Areas			
Compliance	1	Is LEED, Green Globes or other third-party certification required?	No, unless the building is subject to an agency-specific requirement for third-party certification.
Compliance	2	Is verification by a third-party required to meet the Guiding Principles?	No. Each agency is responsible for evaluating its buildings and ensuring that sufficient evidence and documentation is readily available to demonstrate compliance with the Guiding Principles. This could be done internally or through a third-party. Determinations of compliance should be made on a building-by-building basis.
Applicability	3	What happens when a Guiding Principle is not applicable to a building? Can a determination of "not applicable" be applied to individual Guiding Principles?	For building evaluation purposes, "not applicable" may be used where the building's inherent function, mission, safety, or designation prevents compliance with a specific Guiding Principle, element, or sub-element. For new construction and modernization, "not applicable" is equivalent to compliance with that Guiding Principle, element, or sub-element.

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NC +M Examples:

Guiding Principles		#	Question	Answer
1. Integrated Design	Required	12	Will a Conceptual Design Report (CDR) and Integrated Project Team (IPT) meeting notes meet this requirement?	Yes, a CDR along with IPT meeting notes and related materials can be used to document adherence to this Guiding Principle, as long as each sub-element is addressed.
9. Alternative Water	Required	27	Does non-potable fresh water used for irrigation need to be metered?	Yes. Non-potable and potable water used for irrigation needs to be metered for irrigation systems serving more than 25,000 square feet of landscape. However, sources of water considered "alternative" water (e.g. rain water and condensate collection, etc.) do not need to be metered.
14. Occupant Health and Wellness (2016)	Required	36	Is a fitness center required?	No. The intent is to promote health and wellness, which can be achieved by various other means. It is up to the site to make an honest assessment of available opportunities during the design phase. Additional opportunities may be present when the building is operational, e.g. health and wellness programs.

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EB Examples:

	#	Question	Answer
General Topic Areas			
Life Cycle Cost	1	Life cycle cost effectiveness applies to each individual Guiding Principle per EO 13693. If a "required" Guiding Principle isn't implemented because it is found not to be cost effective, can the building take credit?	No. Guiding Principles that are not cost effective and therefore not implemented do not count towards compliance.
Documentation	2	Our building is on a campus. Can we use our campus purchasing policy to meet the Guiding Principles?	Individual buildings can be compliant with a Guiding Principle, element, or sub-element through "campus-wide" or "installation-wide" protocols, policies, and/or contracts to which the building is subject. Examples include: green cleaning programs; centralized or aggregated renewable energy projects; stormwater management plans and measures; occupant health and wellness plans; campus-wide waste diversion plans; climate resilience and adaption plans; Integrated Pest Management plans; and, purchasing/sustainable acquisition policies.

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Request from Agencies

Before we release this first version, DO you or your program have additional questions you'd like ensure we answer here?

1. Send FEMP your questions! We'll review and include them in the FAQ if it applies.
2. Come to EEx17 Track 13 Session 8, we'll be having a live review of this document and any other Q/As you might have on interpretations.

Moving Forward

- These FAQs will be updated bi-yearly to include new Q/A's with input from CEQ on certain responses.
- Agencies can always still directly contact FEMP for questions not covered on this guide or request onsite training!

2016 Guiding Principles – *FEMP Contacts*

Contact any of us with your Questions!

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