

The Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2019

Background: 40% of the nation's energy is consumed in buildings – far more than either the transportation or industry sectors. The federal government is the nation's largest energy consumer and one of the largest energy consumers in the world. The Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) leverages Department of Energy (DOE) expertise to help DOE and other federal agencies reduce their energy and water consumption.

FEMP provides training, guidance, and technical assistance to enable federal agencies to meet energy related goals, works with agencies and stakeholders to identify affordable solutions, facilitates energy and water savings through public-private partnerships, and provides energy leadership to the country by identifying government best practices. These efforts have resulted in the federal government achieving a 49% reduction in energy intensity since 1975 and cost savings of approximately \$50 billion.

FEMP is an existing program that has never been authorized, although many energy management functions were spelled out in the National Energy Conservation Policy Act of 1975. The Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2019 sets out FEMP's duties and also sets energy and water reduction goals for 10 years. The bill is supported by energy efficiency advocates and energy services companies.

Section-by-section:

Section 1. Short Title. Section 1 provides the title of the legislation as the Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act of 2019.

Section 2. Energy and Water Performance Requirement for Federal Buildings. Section 2 adds water efficiency where appropriate in Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253). It also establishes the following goals to reduce energy and water use in federal buildings:

Energy use – Federal buildings are required to reduce energy use by 2.5% per year for 10 years (2020-2030 relative to 2018). This target is similar to targets included in S. 1245, the All-of-the-Above Federal Building Energy Conservation Act of 2019, and Section 1116 of S. 1460 (115th Congress), the Energy and Natural Resources Act.

Water use – Federal buildings are directed to reduce water use by 54% by 2030 relative to 2007. That total reduction is achieved by reducing water consumption by 2% each year from 2007 onward. This section further requires the Secretary of Energy to update guidelines for water metering.

Section 3. Federal Energy Management Program. Section 3 amends Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) to codify the Federal Energy Management Program in order to facilitate the implementation of cost-effective energy and water management and energy-related investment practices by the Federal Government and to coordinate and strengthen federal energy and water resilience and promote environmental stewardship.

This section also lists program activities related to strategic planning and technical assistance, energy and water management and reporting, federal policy coordination, and facility and fleet optimization.

It further directs the Secretary of Energy to appoint a federal director of the program within the Senior Executive Service to provide leadership and coordinate the activities of the program.

Finally, this section authorizes \$36 million for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2030.