

U.S. Embassy Athens Environment Activities (April 2010)



Internal Green Initiatives

Photovoltaic System – We are installing 20 KW on the roof of the garage to reduce energy costs and protect the environment. We will increase the capacity in subsequent years as funding becomes available.



Programmable heating/cooling system in New Embassy Building. We have installed heating and cooling systems that adjust based on time of day and peak use times. Estimated 13% reduction in energy use.

Embassy-wide high efficiency light bulb distribution. New light bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer. Saves on maintenance costs as well as energy costs, despite larger initial capital cost. They contain no mercury, which is a dangerous contaminant when discarding fluorescent lights. Use of automatic lighting, with sensors, used across the Embassy.

Recycling. Embassy-wide battery and cell phone recycling. Plans for introduction of double-sided printing, and printer cartridge and toner recycling.

Water efficiency. Waste water recycling for lawn/flower watering on Embassy grounds. Water for landscaping comes from non-potable well-water; city water sources not used for landscaping. Waterless urinals, and dual-flush toilets.

Partial green roof at Embassy, with extensive vegetation. Reduction in wasteful runoff and lowers heating/cooling costs. Greenhouse at AMB residence: Locally-grown flowers and other plants to be used for embassy and USG-owned residences' landscaping.

Environmental Efforts in Greece

Reforestation. Two successful reforestation programs (over 2,000 trees and bushes planted at Pendeli and Marathon combined—both sites which suffered from summer wildfires) in last 6 months, bringing together local students, NGOs, businesses, and Embassy volunteers.



Firefighting and Prevention. On-going coordination and training between U.S. Forest Service and Greek Fire Department. Upcoming Fire Investigation Training to take place in Greece, May 2010.



Biodiversity and Sustainability. Contributed to local biodiversity events as part of 2010 UN International Year of Biodiversity; supported business training seminar for Greek executives on innovative business models for environmental sustainability.

Educational Outreach. U.S. and Embassy speakers meet with students, government officials, municipal authorities, think tanks and NGOs throughout Greece, on a range of environmental protection issues. The Embassy involves hundreds of local students in our green initiatives such as reforestation and beach clean-up efforts. Embassy's mosaiko.gr website features an interactive "Think Green" section, linking to social media and video content.