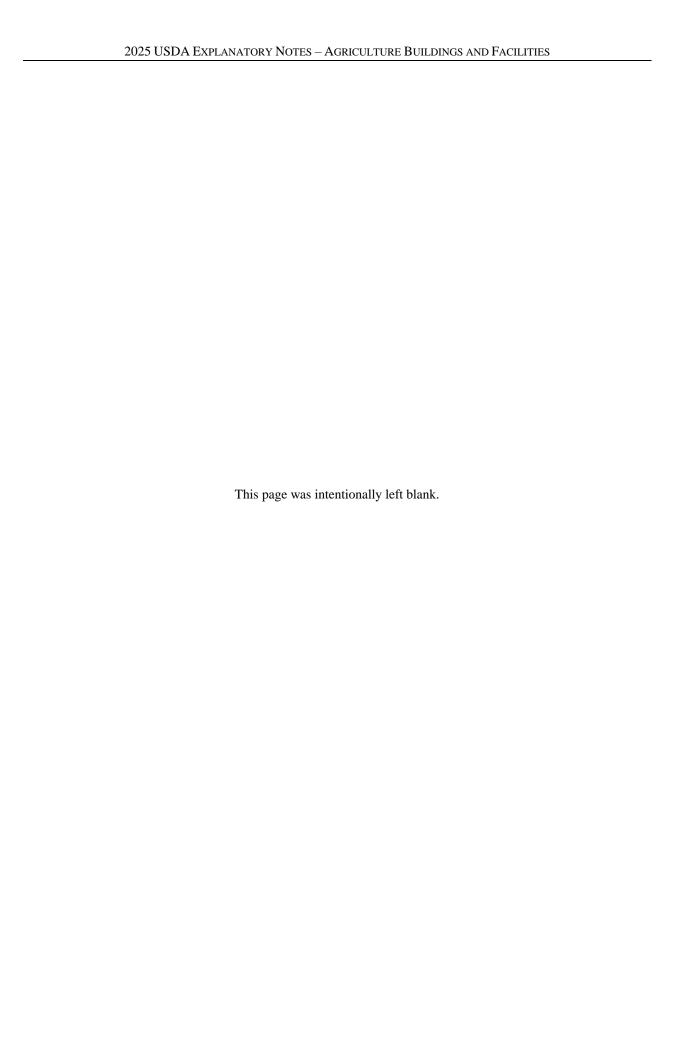
# 2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES -AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

# Table of Contents

Preface	1
Agency-Wide	1
Purpose Statement	
OIG and GAO Reports	1
Available Funds and FTEs	2
Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs	2
Account 1: Salaries and Expenses	
Appropriations Language	
Lead-Off Tabular Statement	
Project Statements	4
Justification of Changes	
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs	
Classification by Objects	
Status of Programs	



#### **PREFACE**

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2025 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2022 and 2023, annualized Continuing Resolution levels for 2024, and the President's Budget request for 2025. Amounts for 2024 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 and 2025 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

#### AGENCY-WIDE

#### PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (AgBF) account finances the repair, improvement, maintenance, sustainability and energy conservation activities at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, MD. It also finances the administrative costs for the building management and support staff. Since 1984, USDA has been delegated the responsibility for managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, improving, and securing the Headquarters Complex, which encompasses 14.1 acres of grounds and two buildings containing approximately 2.5 million gross square feet of space, as well as the USDA-owned GWCC that comprises 350,000 gross square feet, located on seventy-three acres in Beltsville, MD.

Many of the functional activities of AgBF are in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2023, there were 65 full-time permanent employees. Of these, 56 were assigned in Washington, D.C., 6 were assigned in Beltsville, Maryland, 1 was assigned in New Jersey, 1 was assigned in New York, and 1 was assigned in Florida.

# OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Agriculture Buildings and Facilities did not have any Office of Inspector General or Government Accountability Office Evaluation reports during the prior fiscal year.

# AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table AgBF -1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

	2022		2023		2024		2025	
Item	Actual	<b>FTEs</b>	Actual	<b>FTEs</b>	Estimated	<b>FTEs</b>	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$34,997	58	\$40,581	65	\$40,581	65	\$54,882	65
Total Discretionary Appropriation	34,997	58	40,581	65	40,581	65	54,882	65
Balance Available, SOY	162,639	-	43,233	-	35,984	-	7,984	-
Recoveries, Other	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	198,636	58	86,924	65	76,565	65	62,866	65
Balance Available, EOY	-43,233	-	-35,984	-	-7,984	-	-	
Total Obligations	155,403	58	50,940	65	68,581	65	62,866	65
Reimbursements from USDA Agencies	2,136	-	10,278	-	12,500	-	12,500	_
Total Other USDA:	2,136	-	10,278	-	12,500	-	12,500	_
Total Available, AgBF	157,539	58	61,218	65	81,081	65	75,366	65

# PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table AgBF-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

			2022 Actual			2023 Actual			2024 Estimated			2025 Estimated
Item	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2
GS-15	7	-	7	7	-	7	7	-	7	7	-	. 7
GS-14	12	1	13	14	1	15	14	1	15	14	1	15
GS-13	11	2	13	14	3	17	14	3	17	14	3	17
GS-12	14	-	14	15	-	15	15	-	15	15	-	15
GS-11	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	. 1
GS-9	7	1	8	7	1	8	7	1	8	7	1	8
Total Permanent.	54	4	58	60	5	65	60	5	65	60	5	65
Total Perm. FT												
EOY	54	4	58	60	5	65	60	5	65	60	5	65
FTE*	54	4	58	60	5	65	60	5	65	60	5	65

<sup>\*</sup>Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.

# ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES

# **APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

#### Salaries and Expenses

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs,

[\$124,628,000]\$54,882,000, to remain available until expended[,of which \$25,000,000 shall be available for the hire and purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure].

# **Change Description**

This change (line 8 of paragraph 1) removes language for the zero-emission passenger vehicle fleet funding as the program has been shifted to Departmental Administration.

# **LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table AgBF-3. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$40,581,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 14,301,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	54,882,000

# PROJECT STATEMENTS

# Table AgBF-4. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

										FTE	
	2022		2023		2024		2025			Inc. or	Chg
Item	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	Dec.	Key
Discretionary											
Appropriations:											
Agriculture Buildings and											
Facilities	\$34,997	58	\$40,581	65	\$40,581	65	\$54,882	65	+\$14,301	-	(1)
Transfers In and Out,											
Rescissions	73,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	108,397	58	40,581	65	40,581	65	54,882	65	+14,301	-	
Rescission	-73,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Recoveries, Other	1,000	-	3,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	162,639	-	43,233	-	35,984	-	7,984	-	-28,000	-	
Total Available	198,636	58	86,924	65	76,565	65	62,866	65	-13,699	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-43,223	-	-35,984	-	-7,984	-	-	-	+7,984	-	
Total Obligations	155,403	58	50,940	65	68,581	65	62,866	65	-5,715	-	

# Table AgBF-51. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

	2022		2023		2024		2025	F	TE Inc.
Item	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs Inc. or Dec.	or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:									
Agriculture Buildings and									
Facilities	\$155,403	58	\$50,940	65	\$68,581	65	\$62,866	65 -\$5,715	_
Total Bal. Available, EOY	43,233	-	35,984	-	-7,984	-	-	7,984	
Total Available	198,636	58	86,924	65	76,565	65	62,866	65 -13,699	
Rescission	73,400	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Recoveries, Other	-1,000	-	-3,110	-	-	-	-		-
Bal. Available, SOY	-162,639	-	-43,233	-	-35,984	-	-7,984	- +28,000	
Total Appropriation	108,397	58	40,581	65	40,581	65	54,882	65 +14,301	-

# **JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES**

Base funding of \$54 million in 2025 ensures the necessary funding for onboard staffing, critical vacancies, utilities, and contractors providing operations and maintenance, safety, custodial, pest control, hazardous material abatement, landscaping, and other support services. This is critical to ensure USDA can open the doors each day and provide a safe and secure environment for the thousands of employees and contractors working in the USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC who are responsible for delivering the Department's missions and objectives to support the American people. Base funding will also support anticipated increases in utility service contract costs associated with the return-to-work environment.

The USDA modernization of the South Building continues to be the top priority for the Agriculture Buildings Facilities, Building Operations and Maintenance account in 2025. The modernization will correct serious building life/safety deficiencies, address innovation, consolidation, and the rearrangement of occupants in the South Building and GWCC into more logical and efficient space configurations designed to improve workplace effectiveness and efficiency in the USDA National Capital Region (NCR). This will result in improved collaboration between USDA agencies for better responsiveness to our constituents and customers, and more efficient use of taxpayer dollars through the reduction and eventual elimination of multiple leases in the NCR.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

# (1) An increase of \$14,301,000 for AgBF (\$40,581,000 and 65 FTEs available in 2024).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

# A) An increase of \$301,000 for 2025 pay costs.

This increase will support an annualization of the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2025 2.0 percent Cost of Living pay increase. This increase is necessary to support cost of living for onboard staff to ensure we meet the statutory requirements for staff providing day-to-day mission essential operational support at USDA Headquarters Complex (Whitten and South Buildings) and the USDA-owned GWCC, which houses USDA Mission Areas, Agencies and Staff Offices providing critical services to the American public. Critical vacancies providing health and safety, facility operations and maintenance, and architectural and engineering services are necessary with more and more employees returning to the buildings and vital to ensure succession planning so that institutional knowledge of these historical buildings continues. If this funding is not provided, AgBF would need to significantly cut travel, training, and facility support to absorb these costs. Failure to receive this increase would prevent the program from fully performing their mission, which is necessary to ensure continued operations and maintenance of facilities and the safety of property and personnel.

# B) An increase of \$14,000,000 to re-baseline for operation and maintenance due to the cuts in 2023.

The re-baseline of funding will allow AgBF to support operations and maintenance, building safety requirements, hazardous material abatement, and correct significant deficiencies that exist in the systems and components of the building that create life and health safety risks for building occupants. Many of the building systems, such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, are the original to the building circa 1930 and have been challenging to maintain functionally. Deficiencies also include lack of critical fire safety (sprinkler) system needed for the protection of employees and property; presence of hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint, Polychlorinated Biphenyls; outdated electrical systems; outdated elevators; inadequate emergency backup power for life safety equipment; and noncompliance with the Architectural Barriers Act) Accessibility Standards. In absence of additional funding, these deficiencies would continue to go unresolved and impact our ability to provide continuity of service in support of USDA Missions. In addition, Ag B&F will be unable to recruit and fill for critical vacancies and will be required to implement contract reductions to facility service contracts that provide support to the USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC, which may include: custodial services (facility cleaning, trash removal, floor maintenance, recycling), pest control, landscaping, locksmith services, operations and maintenance that support the upkeep of the buildings, or customer service and audio visual contract support that provides support to the Office of the Secretary, Mission Areas, Agencies and Staff Offices in various events and programs.

# GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table AgBF -6. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

	2022	2023 2024		2024				
State/Territory/Country	Actual	<b>FTEs</b>	Actual	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>FTEs</b>	Estimated	<b>FTEs</b>
District of Columbia	\$154,681	53	\$50,189	60	\$67,812	60	\$62,086	60
Florida	141	1	146	1	152	1	155	1
Maryland	440	3	458	3	464	3	468	3
New Jersey	141	1	147	1	153	1	157	1
Obligations	155,403	58	50,940	65	68,581	65	62,866	65
Bal. Available, EOY	43,233	-	35,984	-	7.984	-	-	-
Total, Available	198,636	58	86,924	65	76,565	65	62,866	65

<u>CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS</u>

Table AgBF -7 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

		2022	2023	2024	2025
Item No.	Item	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$7,078	\$7,486	\$7,681	\$7,876
	Personnel Compensation, Field	178	185	190	194
11	Total personnel compensation	7,256	7,671	7,871	8,070
12	Personal benefits	2,586	2,752	2,885	3,145
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	5	1	15	15
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	9,847	10,424	10,771	11,230
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	3	12	15	15
22.0	Transportation of things	3	4	5	5
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	6,880	6,352	6,500	6,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	440	4,453	1,450	450
24.0	Printing and reproduction	53	37	45	40
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	2,532	2,676	2,600	2,600
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	47,302	2,791	2,425	2,500
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	84,193	22,341	23,550	19,984
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	3,845	1,380	20,755	19,582
25.5	Research and development contracts	60	40	50	40
26.0	Supplies and materials	208	321	300	320
31.0	Equipment	34	109	115	100
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	3	-	-	_
	Total, Other Objects	145,556	40,516	57,810	51,636
99.9	Total, new obligations	155,403	50,940	68,581	62,866
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$205,000	\$212,000	\$214,616	\$216,888
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$104,000	\$108,000	\$113,616	\$115,888
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.6	12.7	12.8	12.8

# STATUS OF PROGRAMS

# Office of Operations

The Office of Operations (OO), an office within Departmental Administration (DA), is responsible for the repair, improvement, maintenance, sustainability and energy conservation activities at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, MD, including the administrative costs for the building management and support staff.

# **Current Activities**

OO provides a safe and secure facility infrastructure, consolidated business services, and administrative services for USDA employees in the National Capital Region (NCR). OO also provides facilities operations and management services, and operational support for agencies and staff offices occupying USDA's Headquarters Complex, the GWCC, and USDA-leased facilities in the NCR in the areas of: engineering, architecture, space management, internal energy conservation, recycling, sustainable practices, occupant emergency planning, occupational safety, and health services. Strategies and initiatives for effective and efficient management of USDA Headquarters' facilities include:

- Ensuring efficient utilization of space by USDA agencies and staff offices in the NCR in the most cost-effective manner by reducing the USDA footprint in the NCR and lessening agencies' dependency on leased facilities.
- Maintenance of USDA Headquarters' critical infrastructure and modernization of the Whitten, South and GWCC Buildings to meet the long-term facility needs of the Department and to improve and maintain the safety, health, and welfare of employees.
- Supporting and enhancing the delivery of quality facility and administrative services to agencies at the Headquarters' Complex and the GWCC, resulting in the improvement of the quality of work life for employees.
- Exercising good stewardship to conserve natural resources through energy conservation and sustainable practices at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the GWCC.

# **Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

In 2023, OO implemented measures that will provide efficiencies and significantly enhance the Headquarters Complex and GWCC in support of the Department's long-term goal of increasing real estate efficiency and terminating costly leases in the NCR. OO initiated or completed several projects in the areas of modernization and space management activities; safety and emergency operations; building maintence and repairs; and facility improvements. This was done even under budgetary constraints with the 2023 Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (AgBF) appropriations, and required the use of AgBF carryover as well as Nonrecurring Expenses funding (NEF). Examples of these efforts include:

During 2023, following the September 30, 2022, contract award of Wing 7 (using a combination of AgBF as well as NEF funding), the tenant move out of Wing 7 was completed, the 35 percent and 65 percent design packages were finalized, construction notice to proceed was issued and selective interior demolition work and asbestos abatement were underway by the end of the 4th quarter. The 12th Street Moat Wall restoration was added to the Wing 7 project since the project scope already included the restoration of the 14th Street Moat Wall and combining these make the process to apply for Section 106 Historic Preservation review more efficient and cost effective. When complete, renovation of Wing 7 will replace aging/failing mechanical systems with new, energy efficient systems helping USDA meet energy reduction goals, abate hazardous materials, and provide an overall upgrade of building systems and office spaces from the basement to the attic with more up to date (code compliance) and modern space while preserving the architecturally significant features in this historic property. Post modernization Wing 7 seating will be 710 as compared to 426. Utilizing what we learned from the pandemic, the design includes UVC lighting in the air handlers, MERV 13 air filters, and touchless fixtures and door openers in the restrooms.

The design/build solicitation package for Wing 6 was 95 percent completed as of the end of 2023 (pending funding to proceed). The major construction to modernize Phase 2 (Buildings 3 and 4) of GWCC to replace aging systems, comply with contemporary codes and increase space utilization was complete with a few change orders pending including final completion of security cameras and installation of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) water line that connects the GWCC domestic water loop to the WSSC city water system. As of the end of the fiscal year, two thirds of the 152 cameras have been successfully connected to the network. In addition, the permitting process for the domestic water line between GWCC and WSSC was approved with the excavation

underway, and work anticipated to be complete in 2024. The GWCC Mural Wall was also completed. The GWCC mural was a collaborative effort between USDA and the Tuskegee University honoring George Washington Carver's significant accomplishments, particularly in the field of agriculture. The GWCC project received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. LEED certified buildings reduce our carbon footprint, are energy efficient, and less expensive to operate. Achieving the LEED Silver certification ensures a positive return on investment by creating a healthier, sustainable, and more productive work environment. The GWCC renovation project is the first project for which the NEF authority provided by Congress in 2015 has been used.

# **Safety and Emergency Operations:**

During 2023, OO implemented several internal processes to ensure the USDA Headquarters and GWCC facilities were in operation continuously, enabling the Continuity of Government and health and safety of employees, thereby allowing USDA to provide services to the American public without interruption. For examples, participation in two functional exercises focusing on Devolution and Relocation. These exercises enabled the Department to test continuity plans and assess our ability to deliver essential programs within USDA's mission under all conditions, emergencies, and disruptions (natural or man-made), using distributed operations. Exercises used realistic scenarios to test the Department's plans for operational continuity and response to emergencies and refamiliarized participants with roles and responsibilities during such situations. Validation of GSA, Centers for Disease Control, and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers guidance ensuring facilities met or exceeded recommendations.

During 2023, the construction contract for the Lot 9 Perimeter Security project was awarded utilizing NEF funding. To prepare for the mobilization and construction, the 2023 Farmers Market was relocated to Whitten Lot 11. The final Lot 9 design was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the result of intense review and collaboration with GSA, the DC State Historic Preservation Officer, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the NCPC. Additionally, coordination with the DC Department of Transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority was necessary. When complete, the project will provide security measures that are effective and enhance the pedestrian and visitor experience by providing barriers to protect entrances, pedestrians, vehicle access points and critical areas/utilities and installing perimeter security closer to the sidewalk to improve the safety of public gatherings at the site. The site improvements are consistent with the protection required for a Level IV facility. The OO safety and health program reduced mishaps and property damage through identification of hazards within the facilities based on Agency/employee involvement and improved communications in reporting procedures which led to the elimination of workplace obstacles and overall improvement to employee safety at the USDA Headquarters Complex and GWCC.

During 2023, OO safety staff were directly involved in the using of a safety reporting system that serves as a comprehensive platform that monitors incident reporting, safety inspections, and safety tasks at USDA Headquarters and GWCC. The system greatly improves monitoring capabilities, providing on-the-spot numbers, responsible parties, and status. Conducted numerous spot workplace inspections of both general facility areas and specific workplace zones throughout Headquarters and GWCC to identify and correct potential hazards, risks, and unsafe conditions in the workplace. Routine inspections ensure compliance with local, state, and federal safety laws and reporting requirements. During 2023, a Workplace Safety Inspection Plan and Checklist were developed that outlines the frequency of inspections designated to each Safety Official with a priority on high-risk areas and those with a history of incidents.

# **Building Maintenance and Repairs:**

Given the age of the buildings and limited financial resources, the buildings are meticulously maintained; however, the South and Whitten Buildings are both in need of major renovations to abate hazardous material, replace antiquated mechanical systems with energy efficient ones and to bring the building into compliance with contemporary Life Safety codes. Furthermore, the buildings require significant investment to address deferred maintenance of the exterior envelope including the roofs, restoration of the windows, and the masonry cleaning and repointing.

# **Facility Improvements:**

Following the implementation of a new state-of-the-art conference room and hoteling reservation system (Archibus) in 2022 to support facilities in the NCR, in 2023 awarded and implemented the expansion modules to include

parking and facility management. These modules expand upon the original conference room reservation system further enhancing the Office of Operations customer service by providing innovative solutions for all USDA Mission Areas, Agencies and Staff Offices to meet their conference room, hoteling, parking, facilities operations and maintenance, and repair/alteration needs. The award for a space management module was made during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for implementation in 2024. The space module will utilize three-dimensional models of the South, Whitten and GWCC campuses assisting with space assignments and utilization.

Awarded a design/build contract to replace the deteriorating biobased roofing material at the South Building cafeteria and the connecting arches to the Whitten Building. The project includes waterproofing repairs to resolve reoccurring leaks at the surrounding decks off the cafeteria conference rooms.

Awarded the Best in Class (BIC) Operations and Maintenance contract. This new award combined operations and maintenance, elevator maintenance, and pest management services (previously performed under separate contracts) under a single GSA Best in Class award. BIC acquisitions meet category management performance criteria as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and result in more efficiency by reducing administrative costs and contract duplication.

In 2023, a Scope of Work and independent government cost estimate were developed for an updated Building Evaluation Report (BER) of the Agriculture South Building and the Jamie L. Whitten Building. The BER will provide leadership a report on the building conditions and rate deficiencies in order of urgency with condition ratings from good to poor. It will provide budgetary cost estimates for repairs. The BER will cover life safety elements, the building envelope, mechanical systems and promote principles of energy conservation, reduction in operating costs and overall sustainability. This project is being funded by NEF.

Conducted enhanced cleaning of the South Building cafeteria kitchen and line cook areas, infrastructure improvements, replaced some antiquated kitchen equipment, and completed minor electrical alterations to facilitate the transition of the food service concession contract in the South Building during 2023.

# **Energy and Water Management Program:**

Supported facility energy efficiency and awareness in the Headquarters Complex and at the GWCC to achieve and maintain annual reduction in building energy use and implement energy efficiency measures that reduce costs by:

Maintained on-site renewable energy generation at the Headquarters and GWCC to enhance energy resilience and reduce costs. The solar systems at GWCC and Whitten Building contribute to 2023 energy cost avoidance of \$382,000.

Since April 2015 through September 30, 2023, the GWCC Solar Farm system has generated 19,406 Megawatts of solar energy, which translates to \$3.2 million in energy cost avoidance for USDA. The GWCC Photovoltaics System is a 2.2-megawatt, consisting of 6,782 American-made solar panels installed over 6 acres of land. The GWCC Solar Farm is currently providing approximately 35 percent of the energy needs for this complex.

Activated, in support of the Electrical Demand Response program, a load reduction plan to reduce electrical usage during periods when electrical use on the electric grid was high. This initiative helped reduce electric bills with minimal impact on the building's occupants.

Supported sustainable buildings by ensuring new major renovations conformed to sustainable design principles and energy and water efficiency requirements, with a goal of attaining LEED certification for the South Building Wing 7 modernization project. The GWCC project received a LEED Silver rating.

Incorporation of water efficient mechanical equipment and plumbing fixtures into the GWCC modernization of Buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4, Wing 7 South Building modernization and plans for Wing 6 modernization (when funding is received).

#### **Biobased Products/Alternative Fuel:**

Utilized biobased and alternative products at USDA facilities by including requirements in the janitorial contract. Additionally, continued the requirement for operations and maintenance contractors to incorporate biobased (BioPreferred) products and compostable products when possible. Due to the decreased occupancy, modernization and the lack of eateries operating, composting has been suspended since March 15, 2020.