

SUSTAINABILITY

**Some of the regulatory summaries referenced from U.S. Northern Review publication.

STATE

COMPOSTING FACILITIES MDE [adopted](#) a new regulatory chapter, COMAR 26.04.11 - Composting Facilities. The new chapter establishes a regulatory program structure and requirements for composting facilities. The new chapter establishes: (1) composting facility “tiers” based on feedstock types and sizes; (2) different types of composting facility permits, along with permit exemptions; (3) siting, design, and operational requirements for facilities; (4) processes for the approval of variances, pilot programs, and research activities; (5) procedures for enforcement; (6) timeframe and procedure for existing composting facilities to come into compliance with the requirements; and (7) recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The new chapter became effective on 1 JUL 15.

FEDERAL

SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL BUILDINGS The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) [issued updated guidance](#) for sustainability of federal buildings. The guidance, developed to comply with [EO 13693](#), Planning for Federal Sustainability for the Next Decade, is intended to: (1) reflect the evolution of sustainable building design, construction, and operating practices since 2008; (2) incorporate other building-related EO 13693 requirements; (3) increase the economic and environmental benefits of federal investments in facilities; (4) enhance occupant health, wellness, and productivity; (5) include climate resilience in building design, construction, and operations, and protect federal facility investments from the potential impacts of climate change; and (6) provide information on tracking agency green building performance. The revised document, [Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings](#), replaces CEQ’s 2008 guidance, High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance. CEQ has also released a companion guidance document, [Determining Compliance with the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings](#).

OTHER

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND WATER USE REDUCTION TOOLKIT The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Citizenship Center released a [toolkit](#) to help organizations make informed decisions about projects intended to increase energy efficiency or reduce water use. The toolkit addresses the energy/water nexus, or the interrelatedness of energy and water projects.