

**Remarks for League of Green Embassies “Green CMR”
Event**

December 6, 2011

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to welcome you to my home to give you a firsthand look at the work that we have done over the past few months to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a local level.

Earlier this year, I attended an Earth Day event co-hosted by the U.S. Embassy and the Polish Green Building Council. I was impressed – and inspired - by the

strong interest in increasing sustainability,
not just in new construction but in
retrofitting older buildings as well.

This home represents the latter
category. It was built around 1967, at a
time when we lacked not only the
technology that we have today but also the
awareness about how smart up-front
investments in efficiency can lead to

substantial long-term environmental and
economic gains.

Energy cooperation in both the public
and private sectors represents a central
element in our bilateral relationship with
Poland. When Deputy Energy Secretary
Daniel Poneman was in Warsaw in
September, he stressed that together the
U.S. and Poland can strengthen our energy

security for tomorrow by taking steps to diversify our energy portfolios today.

This means pursuing not only a diversity of energy sources, but a diversity of energy strategies – and one of those strategies is improving energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is a key component of the Obama administration's commitment to a clean energy economy. Our homes, businesses, and industries consume 70% of all energy used, and therefore every

measure we take to increase energy efficiency is meaningful.

With the “Recovery through Retrofit” program, President Obama has challenged Americans to make their homes more energy efficient and to increase the efficiency standards of their appliances. Obama’s Better Buildings Initiative, announced earlier this year, extends this effort to the private sector, by setting a national target to improve energy efficiency

in commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020.

This Better Buildings Initiative will reduce energy bills for American businesses by approximately \$40 billion per year while creating over 110,000 new jobs. The 2009 Recovery Act made a historic investment in clean energy of over \$90 billion, including \$4.5 billion for Smart Grid investments, \$1 billion in research into new technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and \$2.4 billion for

battery and electric drive component manufacturing.

The federal government is leading by example through the President's Executive Order on Federal Sustainability, which commits federal government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 28% from 2008 levels by 2020. Over the last two years, federal agencies have invested \$5.8 billion in energy efficiency projects for federal buildings.

By the end of 2015, all light-duty vehicles bought for use by the federal government must be powered by alternative fuel sources, such as hybrids, biofuel, compressed natural gas – or the type of cutting edge electric vehicle technology that's on display here today.

So what are the steps that we are taking here in Poland?

I am proud to say that the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw is a member of the League of Green Embassies, a group of over 70 U.S. diplomatic missions worldwide that are committed to sharing ideas and best practices to improve energy efficiency.

Together with the Alliance to Save Energy, we are completing work

throughout this residence – and ten others so far in Europe – that will result in significant energy savings and decreased water consumption.

Many leading U.S. companies are supporting this effort:

- Whirlpool provided its newest Green Generation appliances, including refrigerators, dishwashers, and microwaves that reduce both energy and water consumption.

- Belkin supplied the house with improved power strips to help regulate electricity usage.
- Niagara Conservation installed aerators on sinks to reduce water consumption.
- GreenLight Ventures replaced the outdoor lighting on the flag pole with a managed, more efficient system.

- Phillips is upgrading the incandescent lighting throughout the house using new energy efficient bulbs.
- Danfoss installed time-controlled thermostats connected to a wireless remote-control system that will improve heat management throughout the house.
- 3M will be installing transparent window film on the windows which

will block over 99% of UV rays and help keep rooms cool during the summer months.

Each of these steps may seem relatively small when considered in isolation, but taken together they represent a move in the right direction – the direction of increased energy efficiency, and by extension, increased energy security.

In addition to the exciting new technologies that we installed in the residence, I am also very pleased to have

with us today the Opel Ampera, the first extended-range electric car in Europe. Manufactured by General Motors and known as the Chevrolet Volt in the United States, this is the most fuel efficient car sold in the U.S. and will soon be coming to the European market. This car was selected by a jury of auto journalists from 22 countries as winner of the 2011 World Green Car award.

World leaders are currently gathering in Durban for the COP 17, and while we

are strongly committed to the process, the United States is not waiting for the final results in order to take action. Working together with leading innovators from the private sector, we are committed to taking positive steps to increase energy efficiency today.

Thank you again for joining us. I encourage you to take the opportunity to meet some of the companies that are with us today and hear about the exciting work

that they are doing and how you can replicate these savings in your own homes.