

Federal Energy Saver Showcases

Federal buildings feature advanced technologies and practices for energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy.



Program Overview

To promote widespread Federal energy efficiency, agencies are showcasing cost-effective energy efficiency, water conserving, and renewable energy technologies in their facilities.

To highlight these successful energy-efficient projects, Executive Order 13123 (EO 13123) requires that agencies designate "exemplary new and existing facilities with significant public access and exposure as showcase facilities to highlight energy or water efficiency and renewable energy improvements."

The showcase program functions as a management strategy by assisting agencies in implementing the goals of EO 13123. When facilities are designated as showcases, agencies can receive assistance from FEMP and have the advantage of partnering with other agencies, energy services companies, utilities, and national laboratories.

Since 1995, FEMP has recognized more than 80 sites across the country as Federal Energy Saver Showcases. Each showcase site prominently displays a plaque notifying visitors that the Government building they are entering uses energy, water, and taxpayer dollars wisely.

What are the benefits?

The benefits of showcasing facilities are considerable:

- Increased awareness of energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies applicable to all Federal facilities .
- Facilitated technology transfer through partnerships between agencies, utilities, manufacturers, and others.
- Design assistance to selected showcase facilities improves the quality of projects.
- Agencies are recognized for their efforts.

How is a site selected as a showcase?

The following guidelines are provided for designating buildings as showcase facilities:

- Buildings receive a high number of non-Federal visitors.
- Features of a project are replicable.
- Visitors can learn from site displays.

FEMP further suggests that the showcase sites have a resident energy champion, use innovative financing, and are able to measure actual savings.

Showcase designation is not limited by location or technology. Showcases past and present have featured a wide variety of technologies at very different federal sites across the country

How is a showcase facility created?

Agencies can use the following steps to create showcase facilities:

- Identify facilities for showcase designation (required by EO 13123).
- Use or obtain a high-quality energy audit.
- Seek design assistance and develop partnerships.



This U.S. Courthouse expansion is a General Services Administration pilot sustainable design project. The building will consume 43% less energy than a building designed according to DOE standards for energy efficiency.

What kinds of technologies are featured?

Many showcase projects have involved high-efficiency lighting retrofits or the installation of more efficient heating, ventilating, and cooling systems. Some projects have included the use of renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal systems for hot-water heating, as well

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as photovoltaics (PV) for electricity production. Building-integrated photovoltaics, which replace another integral building structural component with a similar component enhanced with built-in PV power, have been incorporated in several new construction projects.

Other new construction projects are also using passive solar design strategies that combine basic energy efficiency practices with building designs that maximize natural heating, cooling, and daylighting.

The concept of whole building design, which emphasizes the interdependency of building components, has also been incorporated into several new showcase facilities. Rather than designing each building feature separately, these features are designed to work together to optimize overall building energy efficiency and improve worker productivity.

Water conservation is also very important. Federal facilities are improving their water efficiency through installation of low-flow fixtures, water-efficient landscaping and irrigation methods, water reuse and recycling, as well as other process and equipment changes.

How can agencies fund showcase facility projects?

FEMP suggests several methods to fund showcase facility projects:

- Energy Savings Performance Contracting—FEMP provides direct project assistance, broad policy guidance, and training materials.
- Utility incentives—FEMP works directly with other federal agencies and utilities to ensure that individual facilities take maximum advantage of utility-sponsored financial and technical assistance programs.
- Agency appropriations and operations and maintenance—Agencies can use existing appropriations for investments in energy efficiency. Showcase facilities do not necessarily cost more; funds are invested more wisely, with an emphasis on life cycle cost-effectiveness rather than lowest initial cost.

How does FEMP help agencies?

FEMP provides the following services to help agencies create showcase facilities:

- Design Assistance—The design assistance program provides agencies with direct project implementation support and serves as the central focus

for expanding the use of renewable energy in Federal facilities.

- SAVEnergy Action Plans—FEMP provides facility managers with specific action plans for installing conservation measures. The program helps agencies identify the best, most cost-effective energy, water, and renewable energy projects.
- Increased Technology Awareness—FEMP provides support to all Federal agencies to facilitate information transfer on energy and water resource management within the Federal and private sectors.
- Development of Promotional Materials—Federal agencies receive support through publications and electronic media that help facility managers make the best decisions on energy-saving opportunities.
- Interagency Coordination—FEMP is the lead office for coordinating the implementation of EO 13123. It facilitates partnerships between agencies and the private sector to assist in leveraging funding and other services.

Get Recognized!

If you know of a facility that should be recognized as a Federal Energy Saver Showcase, simply submit the application found on FEMP's web site: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp>. Or look for the annual call for Showcases in the FEMP Focus bimonthly newsletter.

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