

The power is in your hands

Boeing Everett earns ISO 14001 certification

By SCOTT LEFEBER

Think about how much electricity you used to light your home last year. Now multiply that by 10,500. That's the amount of energy employees at the Everett, Wash., manufacturing facility saved over the last six years—roughly 31 million kilowatt-hours.

Conservation efforts such as this helped Boeing's Everett site obtain a prestigious certification for its environmental management system last November, said Frank Migaiolo, Everett site environmental affairs manager. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification confirms that the Everett facility—home of the 747, 767, 777 and 787 programs and Global Partners, Interiors Responsibility Center and Electrical Systems Responsibility Center—has an effective

environmental management system in place to monitor and continually improve its environmental performance.

"Energy reduction is an example of pollution prevention, which plays an important role in ISO certification," Migaiolo said. "ISO certification is all about the management system we have in place to reduce our environmental footprint."

While all Boeing facilities have robust environmental management systems in place, the Everett facility took the extra step to formally achieve the voluntary ISO 14001 certification. The certification process assures the public and airline customers that Everett is doing its part to protect the environment. "This achievement shows we are serious about being a good environmental steward," said Ross Bogue, vice president—general manager, 747/767/777 Programs and the Everett site.

The Everett facility, 30 miles north of Seattle, is Boeing's largest site. It spans more than 1,000 acres and employs more than 24,000 people. According to 2005 data from Everett's Safety, Health & Environmental

Affairs team, it annually recycles more than 56 tons of aluminum, 460 tons of steel and 800 tons of wood.

"Our teams have made significant progress the last couple of years to reduce our environmental impact," said Barbara Cosgrove, Everett site director of Site Services.

Everett site leaders decided in 2005 to seek ISO 14001 certification. The standards, first published in 1996, are designed to assist companies in developing, implementing and maintaining an effective environmental management system.

After just two years of implementing ISO standards, site leaders were ready for the third-party certification audit. To prepare for the certification, everyone who works in Everett was required to be familiar with the environmental policy and how it relates to their jobs and activities.

"Everett site employees really stepped up to the challenge," said Steve Carter, Everett environmental engineer. "The ISO audit interviews gave the employees a chance to share the great environmental things they're doing."

Among the energy-reduction projects:

- Devising a schedule to turn off or reduce lighting in different areas of the factory during low-use periods.
- Decreasing the intensity of lights used for the high bays of the factory.
- Installing new compressors for the 777 Gemcor automatic riveting machines. Six compressors were replaced, saving about 400,000 kilowatt-hours per year.
- Switching over old computer monitors to more energy-efficient LCD monitors.
- Installing recycling stations for aluminum cans and plastic bottles around the site.

"We chose to seek ISO 14001 certification because we care about the environmental impact of our products and services—in the air, in the factory and on the ground," Bogue said. "And we will continue to focus on improving our environmental protection and conservation efforts." ■

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ED TURNER PHOTO

The Boeing factory building in Everett, Wash., part of the manufacturing site that recently earned a certification for its environmental management system, is recognized by Guinness World Records as the largest building in the world by volume.