

Star performer

Boeing's renewed ENERGY STAR partnership helps cut energy use, protects environment. By Glen Golightly



By retrofitting air-conditioning and heating systems and installing more efficient lighting and automated controls, Boeing reduced energy consumption at one of its Houston site office buildings by more than 2 million kilowatt hours annually.

That's enough electricity to power 170 homes.

For that conservation effort, the building on Bay Area Boulevard earned Boeing's first ENERGY STAR label.

Created in the 1990s by the Environmental Protection Agency and perhaps best known to consumers for energy-efficiency ratings on products such as TVs and home appliances, the ENERGY STAR program today is jointly sponsored by the EPA and the U.S. Energy Department. It is dedicated to helping businesses and homeowners save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices.

"This is another way we're demonstrating our commitment to protecting the environment," Boeing Chairman, President and CEO Jim McNerney said when he signed a new agreement in September that recommitted Boeing to its partnership with ENERGY STAR.

"Continuously increasing energy efficiency and conservation will help Boeing meet our financial goals and will aid in preserving the environment for future generations. We're pleased to join with ENERGY STAR in this important work," McNerney said.

"Because commercial and industrial facilities account for about half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, Boeing's leadership is important to protecting our global environment," said Kathleen Hogan, EPA Climate Protection Partnerships Division director.

In 2008, Boeing established aggressive targets to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity and improve recycling rates 25 percent by 2012 at its major manufacturing facilities. The company also established a comparable goal for hazardous-waste reduction.

A qualified facility, such as the Bay Area Boulevard building, meets strict energy-performance standards set by EPA—it uses less energy, is less expensive to operate, and produces fewer greenhouse-gas emissions than its peers. ENERGY STAR tools help analyze building performance and energy management program effectiveness for continuous improvement.

Boeing is also participating in the "Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR" campaign to increase energy efficiency at home. So far in 2009, Boeing employees have pledged to make energy reduction changes saving more than 8 million kilowatt hours of electricity and eliminating the more than 14.6 million pounds (6.7 million kilograms) of greenhouse gases created while generating that power.

Energy conservation specialist Alan Griffin, who manages Boeing's partnership with ENERGY STAR, has seen a significant increase in energy and environmental awareness across the company in recent years.

"Employees want to know how they can get involved to help save energy. People are changing their energy-consumption habits at work and at home," Griffin said. ■

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PHOTO: Boeing Houston Maintenance Technician Dennis Cilburn (right) discusses a ventilation system check with John Listi of McQuay, a ventilation system supplier. ELIZABETH MORRELL/BOEING

Boeing is stepping up efforts and encouraging all employees to take the ENERGY STAR pledge for lighting replacements as well as other energy-saving measures.

For more information on how to participate, see the ENERGY STAR Web site: <http://www.energystar.gov>

Another site to visit is the Environment Information Center on the Boeing intranet at: <http://ehs.web.boeing.com/enviro>