

ENERGY STAR Update

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
December 17, 2013

Thousands of Buildings Reach Midpoint of EPA's Fourth-Annual National Building Competition

This week marked the midpoint of EPA's "Battle of the Buildings," a coast-to-coast competition among commercial buildings to fight climate change by cutting down their energy "waste-lines."

More than 3,000 buildings of all types are competing in this year's competition, which kicked off in August. Already at the midpoint, the competitors have posted some impressive savings. Together, they have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 150,000 MtCO_{2e}, equivalent to the annual electricity use of more than 20,000 homes. While there are still several months left to go until the winner is announced, the competition is fierce. Below are the top ten standings as of the midpoint:

Building Name	Location	Reduction in Energy Use
Claiborne Elementary	Baton Rouge, La.	35.1%
Union Bank, 384 Renton Branch	Renton, Wash.	34.3%
UNC-Chapel Hill Bioinformatics Building	Chapel Hill, N.C.	31.5%
McCombs School	Des Moines, Iowa	30.7%
Newberry Elementary School	Newberry, Fla.	28.6%
DeBusk Elementary School	Greeneville, Tenn.	27.7%
North Greene High School	Greeneville, Tenn.	26.6%
Union Bank, 427 Port Townsend Branch	Port Townsend, Wash.	26.5%
JCPenney, North Riverside, Illinois	North Riverside, Ill.	26.5%
The Summit (PREI)	Beaverton, Ore.	25.9%

The number of participants in the Battle of the Buildings has increased from 14 buildings in 2010—the competition's first year—to more than 3,000 buildings in 2013. Altogether, last year's competitors cut their energy costs by more than \$50 million and reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions equal to the electricity used by more than 43,000 homes.

COOL FACT: More than 25 different types of commercial buildings are facing off in this year's ENERGY STAR National Building Competition. The diverse field of competitors includes the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando, Florida, the main campus of the Cleveland Clinic, a Kroger supermarket in Bellevue, Kentucky, and New York City's historic 100 Park Avenue building.

Competitors measure and track their buildings' monthly energy consumption using Portfolio Manager, EPA's ENERGY STAR online energy measurement and tracking tool, and work over the year to cut energy waste through improvements that range from equipment replacement to changes in occupant behavior. Top finishers' data will be verified by a professional engineer or licensed architect.

EPA will announce the winner and final results in April. In the meantime, fans can follow along with the competitors by searching for the #ESNBC hashtag on Twitter.

Learn more about the competition, see all the midpoint weigh-in results, map competitors in your city, and learn more about the types of buildings competing at www.energystar.gov/battleofthebuildings.