



Emerging Themes in Energy Management

Insights from the 2014 Class of ENERGY STAR Awardees

Annually, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes organizations showing exceptional leadership in energy management with an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award. To be considered for an **ENERGY STAR Award for Energy Management**, companies submit a detailed application discussing their energy management practices and achievements. Companies must have a fully implemented energy management program and demonstrate leadership among their peers. EPA has observed that the energy management programs of these awardees offer unique insights into best practices and emerging trends in energy management. The following table offers a glimpse into the leading practices of the 2014 class of ENERGY STAR Awardees.

THEME	DISCUSSION
Sustainability	Energy programs are fulfilling a greater role in supporting corporate sustainability initiatives and goals. Sustainability is becoming a prominent focus and many energy management programs are either being integrated directly into or networked with sustainability programs. In some instances, the energy program is the basis for the sustainability program.
Water	Leading energy programs are taking responsibility for managing and reducing water use. Most awardees have established water reduction or efficiency goals. Additionally, several are participating in international water conservation efforts.
Climate leadership	Many awardees have issued their second set of carbon reduction goals. Many award winners appear on the CDP's Carbon Performance Leadership Index. As climate programs move from reporting to reductions, the role of the energy program becomes more critical for climate risk management.
Capital program	More companies are establishing policies or programs that provide energy programs with greater access to internal funding for larger energy projects. Many energy programs have been granted capital funds while others have secured favorable conditions for financing strategic energy projects with longer paybacks. Establishing a record of successful capital project implementation has earned these programs the confidence of their corporate finance offices, which is paying off.
Energy efficiency impact analysis	Nearly all awardees have established pre-approval procedures for analyzing the impact of projects or purchases over a specific size on efficiency and energy use. Several companies have established energy efficiency design criteria and targets for new construction. Most companies have also created procurement policies to require the use of more efficient equipment, products, and services.

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Sub-metering	Effective energy management requires data; thus, many partners have established robust sub-metering and monitoring capability. Nearly all report having formal initiatives to increase sub-metering & monitoring capability and policies designed to integrate sub-meters and data loggers in new construction or major capital projects.
Real-time monitoring	To utilize sub-metered data, more companies are deploying corporate-wide energy monitoring and dashboard systems with real-time monitoring capability. While all companies have monitoring and reporting systems in place, many companies are moving to advanced systems with greater granularity and real-time monitoring capability or facilitate on-going commissioning strategies.
Advanced energy metrics	More companies are using statistical methods to analyze facility and equipment data to identify variables that affect energy use, and some are developing models and metrics that normalize for these effects. Similar to the methods used for EPA's ENERGY STAR 1 -100 score, the expanded use of metrics is providing new insights into energy use and efficiency strategies.
Supplier engagement	EPA emphasizes working within the Energy Value Chain to reduce energy use up- and downstream of a company. Awardees are expanding work with suppliers to raise awareness of energy risks and the value of energy management as a key aspect of their strategic energy management programs. The number of energy-oriented supplier programs has grown significantly over the past year.
Targeted communications	Strong internal and external communication activities distinguish top energy programs from the average. The communication efforts of leading energy programs are becoming more sophisticated through the use of ENERGY STAR strategies targeted to specific audiences and social media outlets.
Long-range planning	Taking the long-term view of energy management stressed by ENERGY STAR has moved Awardees beyond the cycle of quarterly earnings or two-year paybacks. Many long-range planning efforts aimed at risk management and addressing changes in energy markets, production, and regulatory frameworks are looking 5 to 10 years out.
LED Lighting	Beyond the universal focus of Awardees on saving energy from operational, maintenance, and employee engagement, implementation of large scale LED lighting projects reached a significant level this year across all sectors. While Awardees reported implementation of many other types of projects, LED lighting projects stood out compared to previous years and other projects.

ENERGY STAR partners work together to learn and share best energy management practices. If your company could benefit from participating with leading companies, join ENERGY STAR today at www.energystar.gov/join. For more information on the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Awards, including profiles on winning organizations, visit www.energystar.gov/awards.