

Department of the Interior Employees Receive Federal Energy and Water Management Awards from the Department of Energy

Annually, the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and the Federal Interagency Policy Committee presents Federal Energy and Water Management Awards and designates Federal Energy Saver Showcase Buildings. These awards recognize outstanding achievements in the conservation and efficient use of energy and water; improving the nation's energy security and reliability; use of renewable energy sources; and energy-efficient mobility in the Federal Government. Federal Energy Saver Showcase Buildings are not only energy and/or water efficient but receive a high level of non-Federal visitation, feature projects that are replicable, and offer visitors the opportunity to learn from site displays and implement similar projects.

This year the Department of the Interior had four award recipients:

An Organization Award for Energy Efficiency/Energy Management was presented to the U.S. Geological Survey National Center Energy Management Program. The USGS National Center is a General Services Administration (GSA) facility, consisting of three buildings and a central power plant totaling 1.1 million square feet on 105 acres in Reston, Virginia. The USGS facility management staff implemented an energy management program that resulted in annual energy reductions of 76.6 million British thermal units (million Btu) per thousand square feet (ksf), or 31% as compared to the FY 1985 baseline. This energy reduction equates to a total of \$7 million of taxpayer dollars saved. In FY 2004, energy and water efficiency measurements were implemented that resulted in 9 million Btu per ksf and \$56,000 in savings, which was a 5% decrease in energy consumption as compared to FY 2003. USGS management worked closely with GSA and operations and maintenance support contractors to develop a highly successful energy program focusing on project implementation, operations and maintenance improvements, and employee participation. Mr. John Brown and Mr. Keith Anderson from the USGS accepted the award.



Ariel photo of USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia

October 31, 2005

A Renewable Energy Award to Small Groups was presented to representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Discovery Educational Center in Freeport, TX. The 2,065 square foot facility is used as a visitor contact center and by local school groups to conduct experiments in biology and environmental science. The complex consists of an education building with an open classroom and visitor displays, a restroom building, a water pump house, and a nature trail. The Center generates 100% of its own electrical power using two separate solar photovoltaic arrays. The amount of renewable energy produced is 12,958 kWh/year that equals 44.2 million Btu's saved per year. The Center is also a model of water conservation. Although its water comes from a well, it has low-flow 1.6 gallon/flush toilets that save approximately 14,800 gallons per year per toilet, flow restrictors, roof rainwater capture for planter irrigation, ponded areas to retain stormwater, and an aerobic wastewater treatment system powered by solar energy. The facility will be used as a model of energy efficiency and renewable energy for other Service field stations. Mr. Jeffrey Johns, Ms. Tracey McDonnell, Mr. Don Morrison, Ms. Jennifer Sanchez, and Mr. Floyd Truetken from the FWS were recognized for their efforts.



**FWS Brazoria National Wildlife
Refuge Environmental Discovery
Education Center in Freeport, Texas**

The Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown, Rhode Island was designated a Federal Energy Saver Showcase Building. The elegant yet cost effective Center is an outstanding example of sustainable design that achieves exemplary results benefiting the environment. Careful site planning, recycling, and energy and water conservation make the Center a LEED Certified-equivalent showcase. Sensitive site features were protected during construction or restored with new native plants. Durable and long-lived recycled building materials with no or low-emissions such as engineered wood, plastic lumber, linoleum flooring, fiberboard, sheetrock, tile, bamboo flooring, and carpet with high recycled content were used throughout. Super insulation, energy efficient lighting and windows, passive solar architecture, and a renewable geothermal heat exchange system are hallmarks of the building's energy conservation, which is calculated to save as much as 40 percent compared to a traditional office building. Low-flush toilets and flow restrictors minimize water use. The Center will help over a million visitors a year learn about New England's wildlife and coastal environments. Mr. Charlie Vandemoer, Ms. Pam

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Rooney, and Mr. Jeffery Donohoe from the FWS accepted the award.



FWS Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Kettle Pond Visitor's Center in Charlestown, Rhode Island

The Escalante Science Center, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Escalante, Utah was designated a Federal Energy Saver Showcase Building. The Escalante Science Center consists of two buildings totaling 13,200 square feet. The buildings include science labs, exhibit areas, a theater, small sales area, conference room and offices. A sustainable/holistic approach was used in the design and construction of this Bureau of Land Management facility. Many building features reduce energy and water use, including photovoltaics, while others contribute to indoor air quality, recycled materials, and stormwater management. Special care was taken to keep the site development within previously disturbed areas. Native plant materials were used in landscaped areas and will not require irrigation once established. Mr. Trent Duncan from the BLM accepted the award.



BLM Escalante Science Center, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Escalante, Utah.

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The two DOI Federal Energy Showcase Award recipients were of the four federally recognized showcase awards.

The awards were presented at a ceremony held at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC on October 27, 2005, as part of Energy Awareness Month celebrations.