

# News

## Sustained leadership

### EPA singles out 3M for energy management

*The name of the award says it all. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named 3M the recipient of the ENERGY STAR® Sustained Excellence Award for demonstrating continued leadership in energy management.*

It was significant when 3M was awarded the Partner of the Year for Leadership in Energy Management Award last year. However, this new recognition may be even more impressive, according to Steve Schultz, manager, Energy Management Program, Plant Engineering.

He's referring to 3M being named the recipient of the 2005 ENERGY STAR Sustained Excellence Award, given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Sustained excellence reflects the vision of 3M's energy program," Schultz explained. "It's not a one-time effort. We have a sustained and growing commitment at 3M, and it's shared worldwide."

Impressive statistics bear out this statement. In the 12 months ended last September, 3M's worldwide

operations improved energy efficiency by 8.3 percent and achieved energy savings of \$23 million. Some 1,600 projects are housed in the company's energy cost-reduction database. Nearly 240 new projects geared toward reducing energy consumption were added in 2004.

At the 3M Valley, Neb., plant, for example, employees optimized the compressed air system, saving \$75,000 per year in electrical costs. At 3M Center, new high-efficiency motors improved the efficiency of cooling-tower fans, producing a savings of \$25,000.

In addition, more than 170 Six Sigma energy-management projects have been launched. Last year, for example, the 3M Hutchinson, Minn., plant improved the operation of its thermal oxidizer, saving more than \$192,000 and, at the same

time, creating a best practice for other plants.

3M's strategic plan for energy management was revised last year to draw broader input from 3Mers worldwide. Jim Mahan, senior vice president, Engineering, Manufacturing and Logistics, provided strong leadership on this. And other senior leaders from diverse functions championed energy-management efforts, offering expertise and support.

"Our leaders have a collective commitment to managing energy more efficiently and having a positive impact on the environment," Schultz said. "That, combined with the dedication and drive of our energy teams, makes 3M very deserving of this leadership award."



*\*ENERGY STAR is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*