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BOMA, EPA Issue ENERGY STAR Challenge

BOMA International was one of the featured organizations at a recent event where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) challenged commercial and institutional building owners to improve energy efficiency by more than 10 percent or more to conserve energy, save money, and protect the environment through the agency's ENERGY STAR assessment and rating system.

At a luncheon held as part of a symposium by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) in Washington, D.C., March 14, BOMA International President and COO Henry Chamberlain, CAE, APR, gave the audience an overview of BOMA's efforts through its 99 North American associations to foster greater energy efficiency in commercial buildings. He discussed the partnership between the BOMA Foundation and ENERGY STAR on a new multi-year national campaign tailored for building owners called the BOMA Energy Efficiency Program (BEEP).

BOMA International staff has been active in Washington on the energy issue, urging Congress to enact a national energy strategy to ensure consumers have access to adequate supplies of reasonably priced energy. BOMA has also asked Congress to include in the energy package tax incentives for achieving a high level of energy efficiency to accelerate investments in building system upgrades to enhance performance.

According to the EPA, commercial and institutional buildings use about \$80 billion worth of energy each year and contribute about 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The agency estimates that if each building owner met the challenge to cut energy use by 10 percent, in ten years they would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 15 million cars while saving about \$10 billion each year collectively.

"Improved energy efficiency provides one of the greatest opportunities for cost-effective reduction in pollution and greenhouse gases and improvement in energy security," said Jeff Holmstead, EPA assistant administrator of air and radiation. "With the ENERGY STAR Challenge, we want to repeat and increase these successes at thousands of businesses and institutions across the country."

Among the 11 associations joining BOMA International to accept the ENERGY STAR Challenge are the Real Estate Roundtable, American Hotel & Lodging Association, National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Telecomm Association.

Further reading on BOMA's energy positions and initiatives can be found at www.boma.org/Advocacy/Energy. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov.



Attendees at the ACEEE luncheon included, from left: Henry Chamberlain, CAE, APR, BOMA International president and COO; Dan Curtin, senior chief engineer, CarrAmerica; Richard Greniniger, managing director, CarrAmerica; Karen Penafiel, CAE, assistant vice president of advocacy, BOMA International; Brenna Walraven, RPA, CPM, executive director, national property management, USAA Realty Co., BOMA/Orange County; Jeff Holmstead, assistant administrator of air and radiation, EPA; Nicholas Stolatis, director of real estate, TIAA-CREF; Gary Le Francois, director of engineering and property management, eastern region, Transwestern Commercial Services; and Dennis Thuman, vice president, engineering, western region, Transwestern Commercial Services.