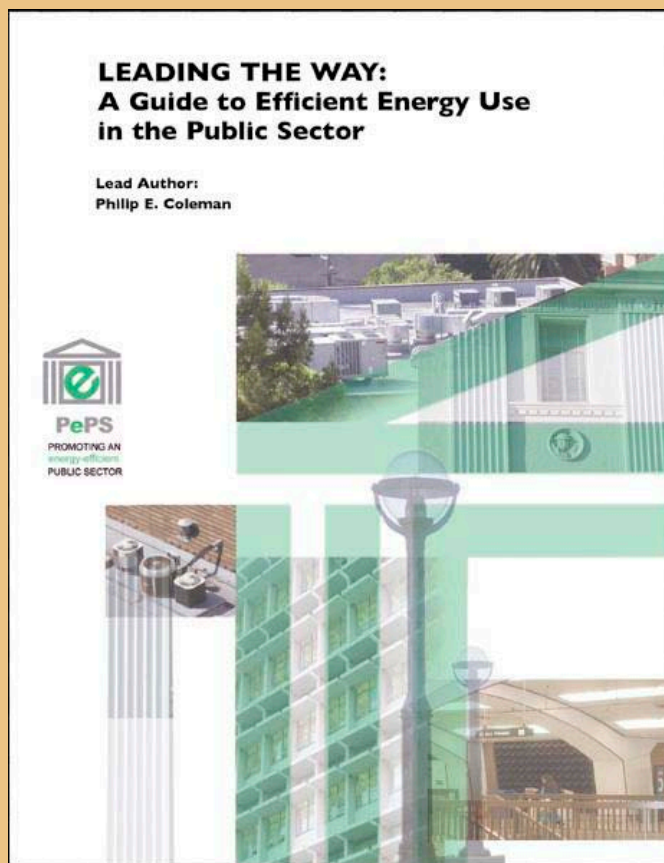




Mexico: Promoting an Energy Efficient Public Sector

Activity: Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector
Program Area: Urban Energy
Implementer: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Geographic Focus: Latin America
Countries: Mexico
Duration: September 2000 – TBD
Status: Active



Guidebook on Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector.

Project Background

Public sector energy management is one of the most important ways that countries can increase their energy efficiency. Government facilities and services are often the largest energy users and major purchasers of energy-using equipment within a country. Government “leadership by example” can be a powerful force to shift the market toward energy efficiency, complementing other elements of a national energy efficiency strategy. Despite these benefits, government sector actions have often lagged behind other energy efficiency policies. With support from USAID, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), the Alliance to Save Energy, International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and the Comisión Nacional para el Ahorro de Energía (CONAE) in Mexico have formed the Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS) program to spread knowledge of and share expertise in public sector energy management worldwide.



Development Objective

The PEPS program aims to promote economic growth and improve environmental quality and health in developing countries by increasing the efficiency of public sector energy use. The direct benefits of this program include lower government energy costs and lower demand on constrained electric utility systems, both of which enhance economic growth; and reduced greenhouse gas and local pollutant emissions, which benefits both the environment and public health.

Approach

This project promotes energy efficiency in the government sector through the development of an energy-efficient public purchasing initiative, outreach on public sector energy management to other countries, and creation of globally applicable tools (e.g., website, guidebook, case studies) to assist government officials in initiating public sector energy management programs.

The underlying strategy leverages the direct benefits of energy-saving actions within government by stimulating broader changes in both the demand and supply sides of the market. The government sector's buying power and active, visible leadership offer a powerful non-regulatory means to stimulate demand for energy-efficient products and services. In turn, government initiatives can trigger a positive response from domestic suppliers of energy-related products and services, encouraging them to introduce more energy-efficient products at competitive prices once the public sector helps establish a reliable entry market. These

market leadership dynamics multiply the benefits of public sector energy management programs.

Project Activities

The PEPS project activities fall into the following three categories:

- 1) Targeted technical assistance to select countries. The current country of focus is Mexico, where PEPS is helping to create an energy-efficient procurement initiative (with AMMAC - Mexican Association of Municipalities - at the municipal level and CONAE at the Federal level).
- 2) Training and Technical Support Materials. These include:
 - Inventory of public sector programs and opportunities in developing countries;
 - Public sector energy efficiency website containing information about PEPS, country profiles, presentations and other useful information for officials interested in learning about public sector energy management; and
 - Guidebook on Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector.
- 3) Outreach to interested countries, through a series of presentations and workshops connected to energy-efficiency-related conferences worldwide. Over the past year, PEPS has made presentations at workshops in South Africa and Kuwait.



Project Results

PEPS has created an active website (www.pepsonline.org), to which new materials and resources are continuously being added. Other PEPS activities have been initiated, and their results will be realized over the next year:

- The Guidebook on Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector, authored and reviewed by many international experts on public sector energy efficiency, will be completed and made available on the PEPS website.
- The municipal-level energy-efficient purchasing initiative will be piloted in select Mexican cities.
- Key energy officials in 3-4 countries will have taken part in discussions about public sector energy efficiency as a result of PEPS presentations at international workshops.
- Relationships with key organizations will be cemented, and possibilities for technical assistance programs explored, in up to three other countries.

Development Impact

As the PEPS initiatives get underway, they will help countries lower their government energy costs, lower overall national energy demand, and reduce their greenhouse gas and local pollutant emissions. These

goals will be realized first in Mexico, where the pilot project – working with 4-5 cities – has the potential to quickly spread to dozens of cities across the country, as well as to Federal and State agencies.

Lessons Learned

During the past year, the PEPS partners learned two valuable lessons: 1) There is a high level of interest in public sector energy management in many developing countries; and 2) there are benefits to exploring pilot programs in several countries at once. One benefit is the ability to share materials and lessons among countries undertaking similar projects (e.g., Mexico was pleased to provide building-operator surveys developed for their program to be translated for use in other countries). Also, the development of promising leads in more than one country helps buffer against unexpected political and organizational changes in any one country.

In subsequent years, PEPS aims to help create several new or significantly expanded government energy sector efficiency programs in developing countries. Pilot programs will be used to test and refine multiple program models. The multi-year strategy will also reduce the need for external PEPS funding – in favor of sustained in-kind (or financial) contributions from participating countries who collaborate by sharing their experience and expertise.



USAID Contact:

Jas Singh
Office of Infrastructure and Engineering
+1 202 712 4473
jsingh@usaid.gov

Project Contact:

Laura Van Wie McGrory
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
(LBNL)
+1 202 646 7963
LLVanWie@lbl.gov