CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

Products that earn the ENERGY STAR® prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. www.energystar.gov

VP BUILDING USES EZ GPO TO SAVE $27,000 ANNUALLY

Lee Moseley always knew there were hidden dollar savings in his company's PCs and that power management was the way to tap them. However, finding the right program to help him accomplish this task was proving to be quite a challenge.

As Systems Administrator for VP Buildings, Inc., a company that designs and builds prefab metal buildings, Moseley oversees the management and implementation of about 1,000 computers and servers for his company using the GPO tools available through Windows 2000. To enable the computers' monitors to enter the low-power sleep mode that delivers energy and dollar savings, he needed a power management program that would work within the GPO format and not require any user intervention.

"About 15% of employees would either turn off their monitors in the evening or enable power management themselves on their computers," said Moseley. "But, we system administrators don't like to leave a lot in users' hands."

That's when he came upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® Monitor Power Management program. Luckily for him, EPA had just rolled out EZ GPO. EZ GPO allows IT professionals to automatically enable power management settings on their system's computers using the GPO tool format – eliminating the need for third party products to accomplish this task.

Selling the program internally was easy, since utility bills are a big part of VP Building's expenses and managers are always searching for ways to bring down costs. Moseley called on the free technical support available from the ENERGY STAR to answer some initial technical questions. "It was a very easy installation," he said.

Moseley announced the new program via a company-wide email the day before its implementation. Many employees were surprised to learn about the potential savings. "People emailed me back saying that they couldn't believe how much we'd save just from shutting down the monitor," said Moseley.

With 1,000 computers, Moseley figures the measure will save VP Buildings approximately 500,000kWh or about $27,000 annually. He's now working with a team inside his company that oversees cost-savings programs and will monitor utility bills and track the savings over time.