ENERGY STAR® for Retail

Spring 2011 Newsletter

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What You Need to Know: ENERGY STAR Updates and More

EPA Recognizes Partner of the Year Award Winners

Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) honor organizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through energy efficiency. At a ceremony on April 12, 2011, the following retail winners were honored:

ENERGY STAR Award for Sustained Excellence

- Food Lion Family, Bloom and Bottom Dollar Foods
- J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award

- Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.
- Staples, Inc.

Click here for more information about the ENERGY STAR awards, including descriptions of these organizations' accomplishments and past winners.

Three Retailers Earn ENERGY STAR Leaders Recognition with Portfolio-Wide Energy Reductions

Recently, EPA recognized Staples Inc., PETCO, and Office Depot as ENERGY STAR Leaders, signifying that each company has demonstrated a greater than 10 percent reduction in energy use across its entire portfolio of buildings.

- Staples, the first non-supermarket retailer to earn Leaders recognition, reduced energy use by more than 11 percent across its portfolio by creating a culture of energy awareness in its facilities, optimizing energy systems company-wide, and investing in efficient technologies.
- PETCO used ENERGY STAR's data management tools, improving energy efficiency and investing in energy management controls, efficient lighting and HVAC systems, and ENERGY STAR appliances, to reduce energy use by more than 10 percent.
- Office Depot earned Leaders with the greatest percent energy reduction of the three companies, lowering energy use 27.5 percent across its portfolio. Office Depot reduced energy use through a number of initiatives, including lighting retrofits and upgrades to energy management and HVAC systems, and plans to use Portfolio Manager and ENERGY STAR energy performance scores to prioritize its buildings for future energy improvements.

ENERGY STAR Leaders recognition is awarded to companies that attain portfolio-wide energy efficiency reductions in normalized energy use of 10, 20, or 30 percent (or more), or that have an average ENERGY STAR energy performance score of 75 or better portfolio-wide, which earns Top Performer recognition. More information on how your organization can become an ENERGY STAR Leader is available here: http://energystar.gov/leaders.

Growing Number of Service Providers Offer Automated Benchmarking Services

As a growing number of retailers benchmark their energy performance in Portfolio Manager, many are turning to service providers to help them, using a process called automated benchmarking. These service providers exchange client data over the Internet between their own software systems and Portfolio Manager to allow for easier upload of monthly energy information.

Automated benchmarking has grown significantly in the past year and now over 60 percent of the nearly 25,000 retail buildings in Portfolio Manager are benchmarked through automated benchmarking. The service providers can update the scores monthly or quarterly with the newest utility bills to keep the scores current and to measure their efficiency gains. The number and type of providers – including software companies specializing in property management and sustainability, utility bill processing, carbon tracking, and energy services – has grown over the past few years, providing services to a wider range of customers. As a result, the automated benchmarking program has grown to include over 35 active providers with over 80,000 buildings benchmarked. A full list of service providers offering automated benchmarking is available on the ENERGY STAR Website. If your current service provider is not listed here, ask them to consider incorporating automated benchmarking into their services.

EPA Announces U.S. Cities with the Most ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings

As part of its annual recognition of ENERGY STAR certified buildings, EPA announced its list of the top 25 cities with the greatest number of buildings that earned the ENERGY STAR in 2010. Check to see if your city made the top 25! For the third straight year, Los Angeles earned the top spot with 510 ENERGY STAR certified buildings. These building owners and managers in the L.A. metropolitan area saved a total of $117.9 million in energy costs and prevented the emissions equal to the electricity use of 39,800 homes.

Since EPA awarded the first ENERGY STAR to a building in 1999, more than 13,800 buildings across America have earned the ENERGY STAR. For more information, see Top Cities with the Most ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings.

Start Benchmarking Your Warehouse(s) Today

Did you know that warehouses are eligible to receive an energy performance score, and can even receive the prestigious ENERGY STAR certification? Retailers seeking to demonstrate environmental leadership through a portfolio-wide approach to energy management should be sure to track the performance of their warehouse properties as well as their stores and corporate headquarters. To learn more about the warehouse rating tool in Portfolio Manager, see the eligibility requirements as well as specific guidance for entering warehouse space use information.

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Upcoming ENERGY STAR Events

The Battle of the Buildings Competition Begins May 2!

EPA is preparing to launch its second annual Battle of the Buildings competition in which commercial buildings will compete to work off the waste to save energy and fight climate change. Applications to participate were collected in February, and the competitors will be announced on May 2. Check www.energystar.gov/battleofthebuildings on May 2 to see if your organization has any buildings participating in the Battle of the Buildings!

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Portfolio Manager Updates and New ENERGY STAR Resources

Portfolio Manager Updates

On March 21, 2011, the following changes were made:

- *Senior care benchmark now available:* EPA launched a new ENERGY STAR energy performance scale for senior care facilities. This new space type enables senior care properties, such as assisted living, skilled nursing, nursing homes, supportive care, dementia care, and some eligible continuing care retirement communities to earn a 1-100 energy performance score. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov/seniorcare. Additionally, you can view the free recorded webinar *Senior Care: How to Receive an ENERGY STAR Score in EPA's Portfolio Manager*. If you have questions, please contact energystarhealthcare@icfi.com.
- *Building import templates*: New and revised building import templates are available to download. Previous versions of the templates are no longer being accepted. Please be sure to use these versions for your next import!
- *Updates to Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) and green power tracking:* The REC tracking section in Portfolio Manager, re-named "Green Power Purchases," enables greater flexibility for tracking green power products that you have purchased as part of your greenhouse gas reduction strategy. You can now select the generation method (biogas, biomass, geothermal, small hydropower, solar, or wind) and location. The green power feature is for tracking purposes only and does not affect your ENERGY STAR score. View EPA's updated guidance on green power tracking.
- *Updates to the Automated Benchmarking Services (ABS) Console:* The ABS console now enables Portfolio Manager users to authorize their service providers to support new meter types, including water meters and campus meters. ABS providers will only be able to manage meter

data to existing campus meters, and will not be able to add new or delete existing campus meters. Additionally, the ABS console will now enable you to assign read-only access to more than one ABS provider.

More information about these updates can be found on the Portfolio Manager log-in page.

New Guidance for Benchmarking Restaurants in Portfolio Manager Now Available

Restaurant owners and operators interested in benchmarking their energy performance now have a new resource available to them to aid in the benchmarking process. The new handout, *Benchmark Your Restaurant Using EPA's Portfolio Manager*, provides step-by-step guidance to benchmarking a restaurant, and also includes screenshots of the process in Portfolio Manager. It will soon be posted to the ENERGY STAR for Restaurants Website.

Additionally, the *ENERGY STAR Guide for Restaurants*, also available on the ENERGY STAR for Restaurants Website, was recently updated. It includes five easy tips to save energy and water, an overview of energy efficiency in a restaurant, and in-depth information on the selection and operation of commercial food service equipment.

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