

# What's New in Federal Energy Management

## Program Overview



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## SAVEnergy Program

*Audit program provides action plans for efficiency improvements*

The SSAVEnergy Program provides direct assistance to Federal agencies in identifying and implementing energy efficiency and water conservation measures. The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct) and Executive Order 12902 require that Federal agencies reduce the energy consumed in Federal buildings. The Executive Order increased the goal to a 30% reduction, compared with 1985, by 2005. In addition, agencies are

required, to the maximum extent possible, to install all energy and water conservation measures with paybacks of less than 10 years.

To help meet these goals, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) recently initiated the SSAVEnergy Program. The SSAVEnergy approach has three key elements:

- *The Action Plan* with recommended conservation actions and complete proposals on how the agency can implement them
- *The Action Team* to implement the SSAVEnergy Action Plan
- *The FEMPTacks database* to evaluate the SSAVEnergy Program (and all other FEMP programs) and record progress toward conservation goals.

### What does the Action Plan do?

The SSAVEnergy Action Plan enables facility energy managers to identify and implement cost-effective projects, using the full spectrum of resources available through the agency, FEMP, utilities, and other sources. It gives energy managers a detailed description of how they can translate specific energy conservation measures into real projects, including budget requirements and potential financing options.

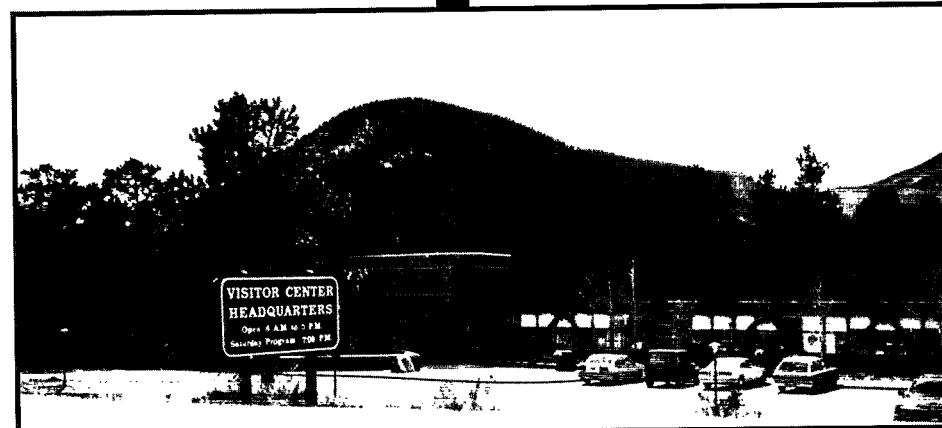
The Action Plan starts with an energy and water conservation audit of the facility. In addition to collecting data on energy and water use, the auditors develop and evaluate conservation alternatives, using a fuel-neutral approach. The auditors also provide a report to help the agency and FEMP follow up on the project.

The SSAVEnergy Action Plan has several components. The plan

- Lists low- or no-cost operation and maintenance changes that will generate immediate savings



Randy Jones, DOE/PIX0460



Randy Jones, DOE/PIX0459

Top: A SSAVEnergy auditor inspects a unit heater at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Bottom: The Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center is among the many Federal facilities that have received a SSAVEnergy Program audit.



U.S. Department of Energy

- Lists the top projects recommended for implementation based on less than 10-year simple payback and federal life-cycle costing
- Suggests funding sources to complete these projects. The funding sources could include agency funds, FEMP's leveraging of nonfederal financial incentives, such as utility incentive programs, or obtaining an Energy Savings Performance Contract.
- Lists other resources necessary for starting these projects to make it easier for the facility manager to start and complete a project
- Screens for renewable energy opportunities, using the Federal Renewable Screening Assistant (FRESA) software, and screens for water conservation opportunities, using Watery software.

### What does the Action Team do?

The SAVEnegy Action Team implements the Action Plan. Team members are the energy manager and others from relevant departments—such as contracts, finance, legal, environmental, and construction. Other support comes from DOE, utilities, and contractors.

Some of the Action Team's proposed actions are to

- Review and evaluate SAVEnegy Action Plans and their implementation
- Overcome barriers to completing projects
- Facilitate energy savings performance contracts
- Leverage utility incentives funding
- Track savings and report them to the agency and DOE.

### What does the FEMPTtracks database track?

In the SAVEnegy Program, the FEMPTtracks database follows energy audit results and progress on action plans to see which projects are successfully implemented. Data include cost and energy savings, emissions reduction, and job creation. Reviewing the data helps track progress in meeting EPAct goals and identifies a need for additional activities or incentives. It also provides insight into the most

cost-effective opportunities for future federal energy and water conservation activities.

### How do federal agencies qualify?

FEMP cannot fund every agency requesting an audit and Action Plan. FEMP wants some assurance that the agency is likely to complete its project. Therefore, FEMP asks the following questions to prescreen requesters:

- Does the facility have a project champion?
- Is there an aggressive utility incentive program?
- Does the agency have its own funds set aside for projects?
- Does the agency have funds to share the cost of the audit?
- Does the facility have transferable project opportunities?
- Is an energy service company interested in the site?
- Can the facility use the project as a showcase for others?
- Have site personnel attended any of the FEMP training courses?

Although FEMP does not require a "yes" answer to all of these questions, it generally favors those sites that can offer at least some of these attributes.

### What are some current activities?

DOE issued a blanket purchase agreement in the fall of 1994 with 19 audit firms to conduct SAVEnegy audits for Federal agencies. DOE selected firms based on their qualifications and experience in providing such services. Each firm designated certain DOE regions in which they wished to work. The audit application, implementation, and project tracking process is coordinated regionally by FEMP representatives in the six DOE regional support offices.

FEMP has awarded contracts to conduct audits for more than 2 million square feet of Federal office space and has audit requests in excess of 100 million square feet. FEMP strives to distribute available funding evenly throughout the six DOE regions, targeting the candidate list prioritized by

the agencies. It is coordinating efforts to ensure that facilities with cost-effective project potential are audited.

Two SAVEnegy regional coordinators have been designated to work closely with the headquarters program manager and the regional support offices. The regional coordinators help to ensure that a high level of quality and efficiency is realized in operating the SAVEnegy Program. Along with supporting the Boston office, the eastern states coordinator supports the FEMP contracting officer's representatives in the Philadelphia and Atlanta regional support offices. The western states coordinator in Denver supports representatives in the Chicago and Seattle regional support offices.



### For More Information

FEMP Help Desk:  
(800) DOE-EREC (363-3732)  
Internet: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp>

Karen Thomas  
(202) 651-7536  
Fax: (202) 651-7501  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Anne Sprunt Crawley,  
Technical Assistance Team Leader  
(202) 586-1505  
Fax: (202) 586-3000  
Mark Ginsberg, Director  
Federal Energy Management  
Program, EE-90  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585



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