



GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

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Meet the Agencies in Georgia's First Annual State Building Energy Competition *Eight State Agencies Competing to Reduce Georgia's "Wasteline" and Conserve Energy*

ATLANTA – The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) is hosting Georgia's First Annual State Building Energy Competition. Open to state agencies only, the agency building that reduces its energy use intensity (EUI) (Btu per square foot) the most on a percentage basis wins the competition. The goal of the competition is to move more state buildings toward higher performance standards and earn an ENERGY STAR label. An ENERGY STAR-qualified facility meets strict energy-performance standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is less expensive to operate and has fewer greenhouse gas emissions than its peers.

Agencies were invited in fall 2010 to submit one or more of its buildings to the competition using baseline energy consumption information from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. GEFA selected the competitors and assigned "trainers" to each facility to assist and help work off its "wasteline." Georgia Power also worked with each competitor (all are customers) to ensure they received interval energy data free-of-charge during the competition via www.EnergyDirect.com.

Eight buildings were selected on November 30, 2010, to participate in the competition, which officially began on January 1, 2011. A building photo for each competitor is available on Flickr at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gefaphotos/>. The competitors include:

- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Headquarters Building; Trainer: Servidyne (Decatur)
- The Georgia Building Authority #2 Peachtree Annex; Trainer: Working Buildings (Atlanta)
- The Georgia Department of Community Affairs Headquarters Building; Trainer: Griffith Engineering (Atlanta)
- The Georgia Music Hall of Fame; Trainer: Energy Ace (Macon)
- Savannah Technical College's Automotive Building and Industrial Technology Center; Trainer: GreenSweep (Savannah)

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- The University of Georgia's Boyd Graduate Studies and Science Library building; Trainer: UGA's Engineering Outreach Service (Athens)
- The Georgia Public Safety Training Center Academic Complex; Trainer: Honeywell (Forsyth)
- The Georgia Student Finance Commission Headquarters; Trainer: Southface (Tucker)

"This building competition creates awareness and promotes Georgia's culture of conservation," said GEFA Executive Director Kevin Clark. "I'd like to congratulate not only the agencies currently competing, but the many state agencies, campuses and facilities that are already doing a great job conserving energy through the Governor's Energy Challenge."

The competitors will use ENERGY STAR's online energy tracking tool, Portfolio Manager, which automatically calculates EUI after entering a year's worth of energy data and other metrics such as square footage. The performance period during which the competitors will be judged will be July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, which aligns with the state's fiscal year. The eight state agencies will not only save money through reduced energy costs, but receive free assistance from energy experts on best conservation practices.

The top three energy-saving agencies will receive full tuition (valued at \$1,375) to submit one person for the Building Operator Certification Program at Gwinnett Technical College. The grand prize winner will receive additional consulting services to apply for an ENERGY STAR label (if eligible), free of charge from Georgia Power (valued at up to \$1,500). The winner will be announced in August 2011.

Commercial buildings currently account for 18 percent of the nation's energy use and nearly 18 percent of its greenhouse gas emissions. These same buildings spend more than \$100 billion annually on energy costs, with 30 percent of the energy expended in these same buildings wasted (www.epa.gov).

For more information on the Governor's Energy Challenge, visit www.GovernorsEnergyChallenge.org.

About the Governor's Energy Challenge (www.governorsenergychallenge.org)

In April 2008, Georgia committed its state agencies to reducing energy consumption 15 percent by 2020 and challenged businesses, local governments and citizens to do the same. The Governor's Energy Challenge plays an active role in helping Georgians meet this challenge through education initiatives and an easy, interactive online energy modeling tool that provides no-cost, low-cost and long-term options for businesses and residents to reduce energy use. For more information and to make the pledge, visit www.GovernorsEnergyChallenge.org.

About the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (www.gefa.org)

The [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority](http://www.gefa.org) (GEFA) provides energy, land and water resources resulting in an improved quality of life for today and future generations. GEFA is the lead agency for state energy programs and is home to the Center of Innovation for Energy; directs the Georgia Land Conservation Program and maintains state-owned fuel storage tanks; and offers financing for reservoir and water supply, water quality, storm water and solid waste infrastructure. Since 1985, GEFA has approved financial commitments totaling more than \$2 billion to local governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.gefa.org.

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