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Georgia Department of Community Affairs Wins First Annual State Building Energy Competition

Agency's Energy Efficiency Initiatives Reduced Georgia's "Wasteline" and Conserved Energy

ATLANTA – The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) today announced the winner of Georgia's First Annual State Building Energy Competition. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Headquarters Building and its trainer, Griffith Engineering, earned first place, reducing its energy use intensity (EUI) by 16.7 percent. DCA also moved its ENERGY STAR score from 42 at the beginning of FY2010 to 61 by the end of FY2011. The Georgia Public Safety Training Center Administration Building and its trainer Honeywell, and The University of Georgia's (UGA) Boyd Graduate Studies and Science Library Building and its trainer UGA Engineering Outreach Service, came in second and third respectively.

"I'd like to congratulate Commissioner Mike Beatty, the staff at DCA and Griffith Engineering for a job well done promoting and supporting Georgia's culture of conservation," said GEFA Executive Director Kevin Clark. "Many state agencies do a great job conserving energy, but DCA, which has now successfully met the Georgia Energy Challenge, sets the benchmark for developing energy-efficiency initiatives that reduce energy consumption."

Open to state agencies only, the competition challenged agencies to reduce energy use intensity (EUI) (Btu per square foot). The agencies received free assistance from energy experts on best conservation practices, and utilized ENERGY STAR's online energy tracking tool, Portfolio Manager, which automatically calculated EUI after entering a year's worth of energy data and other metrics such as square footage. The goal of the competition was to move more state buildings toward higher energy performance standards and earn an ENERGY STAR label.

DCA 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). All three top performers will receive full tuition (valued at \$1,375) to submit one person for the Building Operator Certification Program at Gwinnett Technical College.

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 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.

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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 other five competitors included:

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

Collectively the eight facilities have reduced energy consumption by more than 20 billion BTUs and have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 2,765 metric tons. This is the equivalent of removing 542 passenger vehicles from the road, the annual electricity use of 345 homes, or the carbon sequestered by more than 70,900 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

DCA focused its energy-saving initiatives at the employee level. With the added incentive of a barbeque lunch for their employees if they won the competition, DCA encouraged employees to do simple things such as turning off lights and computer monitors when leaving their offices and wearing appropriate clothing so as to not have to adjust the thermostat on hot or cold days.

About the Georgia Energy Challenge (www.georgiaenergychallenge.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 Georgia 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.GeorgiaEnergyChallenge.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 \$3 billion to local governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.gefa.org, [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).

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