

## EERE-PMC News

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### September, 2007

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The NYIT team, one of 20 entries in the Solar Decathlon constructed their home on the school's Long Island campus in Old Westbury, N.Y., before disassembling and transporting it to Washington, D.C., for the Oct. 12–20 event.

PMC-news explores what's coming up in the [Solar Decathlon](#), progress being made in the nation's drive to build an [E-85 refueling infrastructure](#), and what's happening to [electricity restructuring](#).

In the Features section we highlight DOE's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP).

Since 1985, federal agencies have invested almost \$7 billion in energy efficiency. FEMP has played a key role in helping make these improvements, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy at federal sites across the country.

Many of the tools and techniques used by FEMP can also be helpful to other facilities managers, owners and builders wanting to improve energy efficiency in buildings. We point to the possibilities and show you where to get the details.

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## News

### Building the E-85 infrastructure

The rapid expansion of the [U.S. ethanol fueling infrastructure](#) continues, albeit unevenly.

Currently, Minnesota leads the nation with an E85 fueling network of more than 300 retail and fleet fueling outlets.



Alternative fuel vehicles are showing up everywhere; this 1930s vintage Yellowstone National Park touring bus has been completely restored and converted to run on ethanol.

Colorado pushes ahead with a planned 40 additional E-85 fueling stations in 2007.

California, by contrast, in early 2007, had only one public E-85 fueling station. The high cost of transporting Midwest-produced ethanol into the state continues to be an economic barrier to Californians using E-85. This will likely change as [ethanol plants now being constructed within the state](#) come on line.

Similar transportation expenses impede E-85 uptake on the east coast, where the cost of getting ethanol from midwestern farms to eastern states slows acceptance of the fuel. Again, as more ethanol plants, particularly those specializing in [cellulosic ethanol](#), are built in the east, the fueling infrastructure will expand.

[How to get to a biofuels future \(Governors' Ethanol Coalition\)](#)

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### 2007 Solar Decathlon coming up fast



Georgia Tech students install "light walls" on their energy efficient home that will be displayed at the National Mall's "Solar Village" Oct. 12-20.

DOE has selected [20 teams](#) to compete in the 2007 Solar Decathlon. The teams, from colleges and universities around the globe, will arrive in Washington, D.C. in early October to compete in designing, building and operating the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered home. The event will take place on the National Mall in Washington D.C., October 12 - 20, 2007.

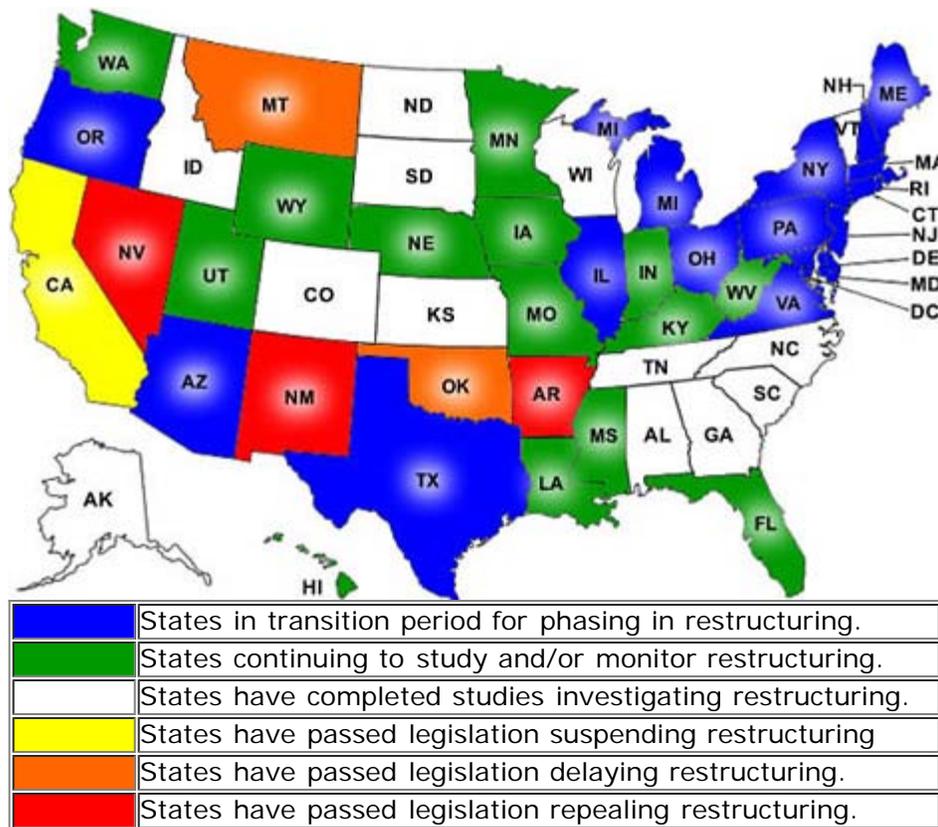
Using only energy from the sun, the teams' houses must generate enough electricity to run a modern household. The competing houses will be located in a "Solar Village" on the National Mall. All homes will be open for public tours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., weekends, and 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays during the Decathlon, except Wednesday, October 17, when the houses will be closed for competition purposes.

[Solar Decathlon details](#)

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### Whatever happened to electricity restructuring

Remember electricity restructuring? It filled the headlines of the popular press for several years, but more recently has faded further into the background. For a quick look at what's happening, glance at the map below. For a more thorough investigation, visit [FEMP's Restructuring Status web site](#) to learn what's happening state by state.



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### President directs federal agencies to increase energy savings

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has directed all federal agencies to make greater use of private, government-wide Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) and Utility Energy Savings Contracting (UESC) programs to improve energy savings in federal facilities.



**At NREL's Thermal Test Facility in Golden, Colo., researchers focus on developing cost-effective and environmentally friendly building equipment and energy systems.**

Agencies were given until mid-September to inform EERE Assistant Secretary Alexander Karsner of their initial assessment of opportunities to use ESPCs and UESCs at their facilities to achieve results.

Since 1985, Federal agencies have invested almost \$7 billion in energy efficiency improvements from all sources. Half, or \$3.5 billion, of this investment has come from ESPCs and UESCs.

These investments are estimated to have saved between \$800 million and \$1.16 billion in the last year alone. Cumulative savings to date are estimated to be as high as \$8.5 billion, saving 4.5 trillion Btu.

[CEO Directive](#)

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### **\$2 Million for clean energy projects on tribal lands**



**America's Tribal Lands contain some of the most abundant renewable energy resources on the continent: geothermal, solar, wind and biomass.**

Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman announced on September 14 that DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will make available up to \$2 million for 15 Native American tribes and Alaskan villages selected for negotiation of awards that support the advancement of renewable energy technologies on tribal lands and rural Alaskan villages.

When making the announcement, the secretary also announced the appointment of Steven J. Morello as Director of DOE's newly formed Office of [Indian Energy Policy and Programs](#).

[more details](#)

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### **DOE adds support to energy efficient information technologies**

DOE and [The Green Grid](#), a consortium of information technology (IT) companies, have set a common goal of improving overall energy efficiency in data centers by 10 percent by 2011. About 10 billion kilowatt-hours would be saved, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of one million U.S. households.

The agreement was formalized on September 19, when EERE Assistant Secretary Alexander Karsner entered into

a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Green Grid to to lower consumption of power in data centers around the globe.

[More](#)

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## Features

### Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) tips for everyone



Fort Hauchuca, Ariz. established in 1877 by the U.S. Cavalry today sports 16-panel and 8-panel photovoltaic systems to generate grid-connected electricity.

As the world's largest volume-buyer of energy-related products, the Federal government has learned a lot about how to save energy and money, while helping drive the market toward energy-efficient, renewable energy, and water-conserving products.

Even for those outside the Federal system, there is much to be learned from studying FEMP's methods and techniques. The [FEMP web site](#) offers a vast resource of energy efficiency tools and resources for building managers and owners. Areas of interest to any manager wanting to make their facilities more energy efficient and cost effective are:

- [Equipment Procurement](#);
- [New Construction/Retrofits](#);
- [Operations and Maintenance](#), and;
- [Utility Management](#).

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### Equipment Procurement

The Federal government spends about \$10 billion annually on energy-using products and services for its buildings, operations, and transportation. To find out how your agency can make smart purchases about energy and cost, access FEMP's [product energy efficiency recommendations](#), [interactive energy cost calculators](#), and [other tools and resources](#).

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### New Construction/Retrofits

The Federal government has developed a large number of practical methods to help assure the use of energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency in building design, construction and renovation. Easy to use resources include:

- Incorporating [energy efficient technologies](#);
- Incorporating [sustainable design principles](#);
- Evaluating the [life-cycle costs of investments](#);
- Selecting an [energy-wise design firm](#); and,
- Drafting [appropriate specifications](#).

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### Operations and Maintenance

[Effective O&M](#) (Operations and Maintenance) is one of the most cost-effective methods for ensuring reliability, safety, and energy efficiency of buildings and facilities.

Energy losses from steam, water and air leaks, uninsulated lines, maladjusted or inoperable controls, and other losses from poor maintenance can devastate bottom-line energy costs and the comfort and safety of personnel in any facility.

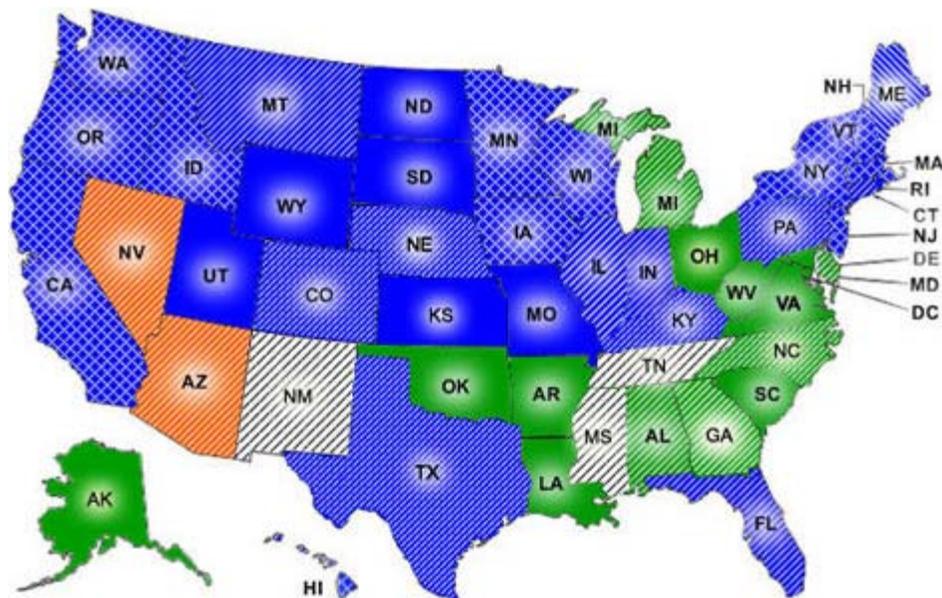
[Energy efficiency O&M programs](#) can save 5 percent to 20 percent on energy bills, often without a significant capital investment.

Improved facility maintenance can usually be started immediately and at a relatively low cost. Many [effective strategies](#) are available. One starting point is [advanced power metering](#).

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### Utility Management

Keep up to date on what's available in energy markets, utility restructuring, renewable power purchasing, demand response and energy efficiency funding opportunities. Take a quick look at the map below, then visit [FEMP's Efficiency Funds and Demand Response](#) web page to learn what's happening state by state.



	States with public purpose and/or utility energy efficiency programs as well as demand response/load management programs.
	States with demand response/load management programs.
	States with public purpose and/or utility energy efficiency programs.
	States with distributed energy resource options available.
	States with gas energy efficiency programs.
	States with no energy management programs.

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