

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
New England Region  
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**U.S. EPA Honors Connecticut Energy Leaders with Two Prestigious Awards**

The state of Connecticut today was awarded an Energy Star Label in recognition of the superior energy efficiency of the 75-year-old building in Hartford occupied by the state Department of Environmental Protection and managed by the state Department of Public Works.

At a press conference today at the DEP building, the state also received a 2005 Climate Protection Award recognizing outstanding efforts by the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change to protect the Earth's climate and stratospheric ozone layer.

The building awarded with the Energy Star designation is at 79 Elm St. in downtown Hartford. By achieving excellence at this building, the state shows that a government building can save money and benefit the environment with a sound energy management strategy.

"The state of Connecticut is proving to be a national leader in energy efficiency and environmental innovation," said Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator of EPA's New England regional office, in announcing the awards today in Hartford. "This government is proving that energy efficiency is good management, good for the environment, and good for the public."

"As a former ranking member of the legislature's environment committee, I am keenly aware of the importance of conserving our plants' energy resources," said Jim Fleming, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. "And as commissioner of DPW, I am very proud of the part played by our staff at DPW working to conserve energy, save taxpayers' dollars, and protect the environment."

EPA's Energy Star program also helps to reduce energy use. The program's free, easy-to-use benchmarking tool helped Connecticut to assess the energy performance of its buildings. Buildings scoring 75 or higher on the 1-100 National Energy Performance Rating scale are eligible for the ENERGY STAR label.

The Department of Environmental Protection building scored 90 out of 100. With the average building scoring a 50, this building uses far less energy, cuts air pollution, and saves Connecticut taxpayers money.

Compared to the average office building, the DEP building uses one third less energy. This translates into avoiding more than 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year -- the equivalent of taking more than 240 cars off the road or cutting energy consumption by more than 2600 barrels of oil. It also

saves taxpayers more than \$300,000 each year.

The building, built about 75 years ago and renovated 10 years ago, shows how efficient technologies and good management can combine to help older buildings perform at a high level. The Connecticut Building Energy Conservation Program is upgrading more than 20 buildings, with annual energy savings of more than 10 million kilowatt hours a year, and millions of dollars in state energy bills.

EPA introduced Energy Star in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air and water pollution through increased energy efficiency. The program helps businesses and consumers save energy and money while protecting the environment for future generations. Last year, Energy Star helped Americans save enough energy to power 20 million homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 18 million cars – all while saving consumers and businesses \$9 billion.

In a separate EPA award, the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change was honored for its work developing a plan for reducing the state's emission of greenhouse gases, pollutants that contribute to climate change. Over two years, the group, involving private, public and non-profit groups, developed 55 recommendations to help the state meet its 2010 and 2020 goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Connecticut is proud to receive this honor on behalf of the many individuals in particular the staff and organizations who worked so hard to develop this comprehensive climate action plan," said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy, chair of the Governor's Steering on Climate Change. "The award is a testament to Connecticut's leadership and commitment in efforts to reduce harmful pollution, improve energy efficiency and reliability, strengthen our economy and improve the overall quality of life."

The Governor's Steering Committee, which was appointed in 2003, consisted of the chairman of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Protection, Administrative Services, Public Utility Control and Transportation; and the undersecretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

More information on Energy Star is available at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

To learn more about EPA's Annual Climate Protection Awards visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/cppd/awards/climproawards.htm>