

**SESSION TITLE:**

Leading by Example: How do governments around the world drive efficiency through their own operations?

SPEAKER SUMMARIES:

Bobi Garrett, Deputy Laboratory Director, Strategic Programs and Partnerships, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

- The speaker explained that the panel would describe various “best practices” employed by governments around the world to drive efficiency in their own operations.

Jon Powers, Federal Environmental Executive, White House Council on Environmental Quality

- The speaker emphasized that high-level leadership, accountability and performance goals were key elements of success in U.S. government energy efficiency programs. He explained that the most important driver of success in the U.S. is presidential leadership and requirements for accountability of agency officials. He described the successful efforts under President Obama’s Executive Order 13514 (Federal Government Leadership by Example) including 1) the establishment of Federal government greenhouse gas and renewable energy goals in 2009 (the government is on track to meet these goals), and 2) accountability requirements for senior managers through the establishment of Senior Sustainability Officers in each federal agency and the implementation of an Accountability Scorecard.
- President Obama’s Executive Order providing \$2 billion funding of Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC) has resulted in a 300% annual increase above previous ESPC funding. In addition, the President’s Better Building Challenge, which calls for a 20% decrease in building energy consumption by 2020, has been very successful in recruiting participation from corporate Chief Executive Officers, universities, and others.

Dr. Abdullah Al Shehri, Governor of the Electricity and Co-Generation Authority, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia’s experience highlights the importance of energy assessment, high-level leadership, and energy efficiency goals to spur energy efficiency in government agencies.
- The government conducted a study of energy efficiency measures and determined that 60% of energy use was in air conditioning. The government also determined that many energy efficiency measures had a highly favorable benefit-cost ratio.
- The Saudi government formed the Saudi Energy Efficiency Center with Deputy Ministers as its members to help increase energy efficiency at existing and new buildings. This initiative was necessary to overcome overlapping agency responsibilities and to provide high-level leadership.
- Goal-setting also has been very important, and the government mandated an increase of 50% in building and air conditioner efficiency.

Michael Geissler, CEO, Berlin Energy Agency

- Some German energy experts have expressed concern that the country has placed insufficient attention on energy efficiency, including low funding and weak efforts in the public sector.
- The Berlin Energy Agency was established as a public-private partnership to develop an energy service industry in Berlin and to increase energy efficiency in the 6000 public buildings in the city. The Agency has established standard contracts and competitive vehicles, and the private sector has invested \$50 million in retrofits.



Jonathan Jutsen, Chairman, Australian Alliance to Save Energy

- Australia has developed some important policies to encourage energy efficiency in the public and private sectors. These policies include carbon pricing (a \$23 per ton price on carbon dioxide), mandatory building performance reporting for the sale of commercial buildings, and the establishment of a clean energy finance agency.
- Mr. Jutsen's overall assessment in terms of government efforts is that energy efficiency results have been mixed. There is concern that half of government facilities have not met minimum efficiency performance targets. At the same time, certain states have been more aggressive, and Victoria and New South Wales have provided strong funding for Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs).

Laura Oleson, Director of Policy, Natural Resources Canada

- Ms. Oleson emphasized that the biggest factor driving success in government energy efficiency programs is the extent of high-level leadership and buy-in from other agencies. She stated that the current Deputy Minister has reinvigorated the Canadian Federal Buildings Initiative (FBI) program in recent years.
- Canada's program also has demonstrated the benefits of a Federal coordinating program to assist agencies by: (1) providing technical assistance, staff training, and building optimization software; and (2) facilitating access to model documents for Energy Savings Performance Contracts as well as identifying qualified bidders.
- From 2009 to 2011, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. achieved a 40% reduction in building energy use.

SESSION WRAP-UP

This panel included representatives from government agencies leading energy efficiency in the following countries: the United States, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Germany. There was a strong consensus about best practices for driving forward energy efficiency in the public sector. The best practices cited included the following: (1) assuring high-quality and publicly available data about energy use and savings; (2) providing high-level government leadership and goals; (3) requiring accountability for high-level officials in meeting energy reduction goals; (4) establishing a Federal coordinating agency to assist other Federal agencies by providing technical assistance and training, developing model documents, and providing other assistance; (5) providing centralized management of programs where this approach is more efficient in building staff capacity; (6) developing energy savings performance contracting programs; and (7) establishing public-private partnerships.