

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Since 1997, the Northwest, working under the banner of NEEA, has achieved cumulative savings of 210 average megawatts (aMW) from the net market effects of current and past projects. This is enough energy to power more than 145,000 homes for an entire year. NEEA's goal is to deliver the region 75 aMW from 2005 to 2009 through voluntary programs as well as through higher codes and standards.

CREATING REGIONAL LEVERAGE

CFL SALES TOP 18 MILLION

NEEA and its partners have worked over the last decade to increase sales of ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) by addressing customer concerns with bulb size and performance, product availability and retail cost. In 2007, Northwest sales of ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs exceeded 18 million. Today, one out of every four bulbs sold in the region is a CFL.

ENERGY STAR PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy named NEEA an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for its promotion of high-efficiency ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers. Overall through NEEA and its partner's activities, Northwest market share for ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers has grown from 2 percent in 1997 to about 50 percent in 2007. This is currently the highest market share in the nation.

HIGHER STANDARD FOR NEW HOMES

NEEA led negotiations with the U.S. EPA in 2004 to establish a Northwest ENERGY STAR new homes specification—a spec that exceeds state building code and is the highest ENERGY STAR Homes standard in the nation. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of ENERGY STAR certified homes in the Northwest increased more than 200 percent.

MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT HEALTHCARE

Hospitals, representing 30 percent of the region's hospital beds, adopted or have committed to adopting a Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP), as promoted by NEEA's BetterBricks initiative. SEMPs focus on design strategies and purchasing policies for new construction, and enhanced operations and maintenance for existing facilities.

ENERGY STAR WINDOWS BECOME MARKET STANDARD

Beginning in 1997, with market share for ENERGY STAR qualified windows at 12 percent, NEEA and its partners used marketing, sales training, technical assistance and incentives to influence window manufacturers, builders, retailers and distributors. In just four years, market share rose to 75 percent. Today ENERGY STAR windows are sold almost exclusively in the Northwest and are expected to save the region 35 aMW by 2010.

ADVANCING ENERGY CODES

Raising energy codes for residential and nonresidential structures is a key area of focus for NEEA because of the long-term energy savings they provide. Investing in efforts to upgrade energy codes is providing five aMW of cumulative savings each year. In 2007, NEEA played a role in Oregon's residential energy code upgrade—now the most energy-efficient in the nation, and Northwest energy code adoptions in the commercial sector since 1997 are estimated to save about 131 MWh annually, enough energy to serve 10,000 homes.

ENCOURAGING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

U.S. EPA ADOPTS 80 PLUS CRITERIA

NEEA was the first to invest in 80 PLUS, a national program to improve the energy efficiency of computer and server power supplies, and helped develop an updated specification for ENERGY STAR PCs that, as of 2007, requires PC power supplies to meet the 80 PLUS criteria. 80 PLUS has the potential to save the Northwest 8.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually—enough to power nearly 700 homes.

OPTIMIZING WASTEWATER TREATMENT

NEEA funded a wastewater treatment approach developed by BacGen Technologies that has reduced energy consumption for treatment facilities by up to 50 percent. More than 70 Northwest communities have implemented this approach.

THREE-YEAR PAYBACK FOR COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

Between 1998 and 2001, NEEA helped fund and facilitate a field test trial of what was then a virtually unknown cold storage technology. Electronic devices called variable frequency drives (VFDs) save energy by enabling evaporator fan motors at storage facilities to run at slower speeds when appropriate, such as in the cooler months. Research concluded VFDs reduced evaporator fan energy use by 61 to 86 percent, and facilities experienced a three-year payback on investment with energy savings alone. VFDs are now an industry standard.

REDUCING CORPORATE ENERGY USE

Computer use accounts for seven percent of the electricity used by U.S. businesses and organizations. NEEA provided matching funds to Verdiem to launch its Surveyor Network Energy Manager software, which allows companies to automate energy management on their PC networks. The program showed that the software reduced computer monitor use by 60 percent and CPU use by 40 percent, saving 175 kWh per year per workstation.

PROVIDING REGIONAL RESOURCES

DESIGN LABS ASSIST BUILDING AND DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

NEEA partners with the region's top architecture schools, local utilities and in some cases state energy offices to run the BetterBricks Network of Integrated Design Labs. These nationally recognized labs work upstream with designers and owners to bring the highest energy performance considerations to the design table. The result is increased building performance at reduced costs.

PUMP SYSTEMS MATTER

NEEA's Industrial Efficiency Alliance (IEA) helped form Pump Systems Matter, an organization that helps pump system users better manage energy use and enhance system performance.

CONTINUOUS ENERGY IMPROVEMENT HELPS TRANSFORM THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The food processing industry represents the second largest electrical load in the Northwest. Working closely with the Northwest Food Processors Association, NEEA's Industrial Efficiency Alliance conducts trainings to educate industry on the benefits of implementing Continuous Energy Improvement (CEI) business practices. In 2007, the number of food processing facilities implementing CEI rose from 9 to 30 (20% of the target market), already exceeding NEEA's 2009 goal.

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BETTER TOGETHER.

