WSU Energy Program

National leader and catalyst for creating powerful energy solutions

The Washington State University (WSU) Energy Program delivers program management, on-site assessments, analytical tools, and training to meet evolving energy challenges in the Pacific Northwest, nationally and internationally.

Partnering with a wide range of agencies, organizations, institutions and businesses, our energy experts identify energy challenges and develop solutions.

Our Program Areas

- Building Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Performance Management & Program Support
- Workforce Development
- Facility Support
- Technology Development & Evaluation
- Industrial & Agricultural Efficiency

Our Customers

- Large and small businesses
- Public and private utilities
- Manufacturing plants
- Local and state governments
- Federal agencies and facilities
- Schools, universities and national laboratories
- Tribes
- Professional and trade associations
- Consumers
Building Efficiency
• Provide technical support and develop tools for building department staffs, builders, contractors and designers on the residential sections of the Washington State Energy Code.
• Manage and administer the statewide Community Energy Efficiency Program that provides energy-efficiency upgrades to homes and small businesses.
• Design and evaluate the performance of energy-efficient homes.
• Manage and support home energy performance specialists supporting the ENERGY STAR® program and energy efficient mortgages.
• Partnered with the WSU Composite Materials and Engineering Laboratory to test heat, air and moisture transport characteristics of exterior walls.

Renewable Energy
• Created and launched the new Renewable Energy System Incentive Program for citizens and businesses and continue to deliver this highly visible program.
• Operate the Northwest Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Technical Assistance Partnership to promote CHP, district energy and waste energy recovery.
• Conducted a study on renewable natural gas and delivered a report to the Washington State Legislature
• Led the six-state Pacific Region Bioenergy partnership to encourage the development of bioenergy.

Performance Management & Program Support
• Perform research and analysis for weatherization efforts in Washington.
• Conduct leading-edge research on health-related benefits of residential weatherization.

Workforce Development
• Evaluate workforce, education and training initiatives and policies that support development of the energy workforce.
• Work in collaboration with the Northwest Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College and Edmonds Community College to identify skills needed by industry and support workforce training offered by colleges and employers.

Facility Support
• Home of the Plant Operations Support Consortium – comprised of state agencies, educational facilities, municipalities, port districts and others – to educate and share information about resource conservation, environmental best practices, and re-use of surplus/salvage materials.
• Host the annual statewide Facilities Connections Conference for custodial and facilities professionals.
• Provide guidance and support to resource conservation managers employed at public agencies to reduce utility costs and increase energy efficiency.
• Provided technical assistance to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality in schools and tribal facilities.

Technology Development & Evaluation
• Work with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to demonstrate the effectiveness of promising technologies that save electric energy to encourage market adoption.
• Conduct leading research on advanced water heating systems in partnership with BPA, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and Northwest utilities.
• Performed evaluations of nearly 1,400 K-12 public schools in Washington – conducting in-depth inventories and assessments of their conditions.
• Developed software for analyzing energy system improvements, including AIRMaster+ and MotorMaster+. MotorMaster+ International is available in six languages.

Agricultural & Industrial Efficiency
• Provide energy assessments, technical assistance and training to industrial facility staff in the U.S. and abroad to maximize the efficiency of industrial resource use.
• Developed a new energy playbook for Nike energy managers to guide the establishment and development of energy management programs at supply chain facilities. Trained regional energy managers and supply chain facility staff in Asia on energy efficiency best practices and tools, and conducted energy assessments at some of those facilities.
• Performed energy assessments and provided funding resources for efficiency improvements to agricultural operations.
• Developed farm energy software as the centerpiece for the Washington Farm Energy Program – implemented in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Agriculture, the state Conservation Commission and the Dairy Federation.