

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS!

The Department of Commerce Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards Program recognizes personnel who have gone above and beyond to promote energy efficiency, environmental stewardship, and sustainability. Please join us in congratulating the following recipients of the 2024 Department of Commerce Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards!

Category: Career Exceptional Service Award

RECOGNIZING: NOAA's Mark Betsch, Branch Chief of Facilities and Electronics, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service, Central Region Headquarters

For exceptional service and stewardship of NOAA facilities, demonstrating innovative oversight and execution of a major energy-savings program. Mark implemented a significant overhaul of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems across multiple Weather Forecasting Offices, resulting in substantial energy reductions and increased operational efficiency.

Category: Environmental Stewardship Project Category

Winner: USPTO Data Center Relocation Project

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Office of the Chief Information Officer, Infrastructure Engineering and Architecture Services, Alexandria, VA

Team Members:

Ian Neil, Debbie Stephens, Bob Simms, Morris Pearson, Jeff Forsyth

For successfully relocating the USPTO data center to a new Co-Location Data Center facility, significantly reducing the data center footprint from 32,000+ sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. This move resulted in a 67% reduction in energy consumption, from 1,093 kilowatts (kW) to 355 kW, and the new data center is powered entirely by renewable energy. The project demonstrates substantial energy efficiency improvements and aligns with the Department's sustainability goals.

Runner Up: USPTO Real Property Reduction Project

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Space and Facilities Management Division

Team Members:

Melissa Fatni, Lisa Langrell, Jessica Fols, Phyllis Black, Blnd Irfan

For the continuous assessment of the telework program effectiveness and enrollment data, leading to a USPTO-wide effort to right-size office space requirements. The USPTO relinquished 190,546 rentable square feet of real property at the Randolph Square building in FY 2024, saving the Department an estimated \$5.6M in annual rent and contributing to the USPTO-wide waste diversion rate of 52%, with a total of 440 tons of furniture, equipment, and appliances transferred to various programs and facilities.

Category: Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation and Project Category

Winner: NIST Boulder Wing 5 Renovation LEED Gold Project

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Facilities and Property Management, Design and Construction Division, Facilities Modernization Group, Boulder, CO

Team Members:

Allen Cook, Brian Burnham, Ruben Rodriguez, Ben Bullock, Jason Boyd

For the comprehensive renovation of Wing 5 of Building 1 at NIST Boulder, achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The project included energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, significant water conservation measures, and a design that preserves the historical character of the building while modernizing it to support state-of-the-art research.