2018 Federal Energy Management Program Award Winners at the NIH

The Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) of the Department of Energy has been mandated to help federal government agencies meet energy and water reduction requirements and goals. To support this mission, FEMP annually distributes the Federal Energy and Water Management Awards to recognize individuals, groups and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at federal facilities. These awards are very prestigious and signify progress towards achieving federal government energy and water reduction goals.

In 2018, the NIH was recognized with two of these awards (one of them is a joint award with the CDC), as described below. Please join me in congratulating these winners and let us follow their example to continue to improve environmental stewardship at the NIH!

In the Laboratory/Data Center Awards Category:

Susan Hinton, National Institutes of Health
Jaroslav Sebek, National Institutes of Health
Anju Vergheese, National Institutes of Health
Aidan Ganzert, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Emily Hays, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This joint award recognizes teams from the NIH and the CDC that implemented programs to manage ultra-low temperature freezers, one of the most energy-intensive pieces of laboratory equipment. The main efforts focused on increasing equipment reliability and reducing waste and energy costs. Strategies included retiring freezers that were no longer needed, tuning freezer temperature, and performing regular preventative maintenance to conserve resources and improve operational efficiency. For more information on the NIH ULT Freezer Policy, please visit our NEMS page or the NIH Policy Manual.

In the Project Awards Category:

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health

The NIH and NIEHS completed construction of the first HHS net-zero energy building, which is designed to generate enough solar photovoltaic power to offset total energy consumption on an annual basis. The building is on pace to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. To learn more about this building, please read this month's "Featured Article" on the main page.