



Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

Career Exceptional Service Award Winners



STEVEN SMITH

U.S. Air Force

Steven Smith is an electrical engineer and energy program manager for the Headquarters Air National Guard (ANG) Civil Engineering Technical Branch. Smith began his career in 1984 as a systems electrical engineer officer at Scott Air Force Base, where he engineered electrical infrastructure supporting ground communications electronics facilities and space-based satellite systems to withstand catastrophic failures. Today, he serves as lead coordinator for ANG's \$28 million energy program spanning 50 states, four territories, and 99 installations.



MELANIE JOHNSON

U.S. Army

Melanie Johnson has made a lasting impact on how the U.S. Department of Defense bolsters energy resilience at installations via microgrid technology. Specifically, Johnson has shaped how the U.S. Army will build the 130 microgrids required by the Army Climate Strategy 2035 and, through joint-service partnership, how the U.S. Navy meets its analogous requirements. She is a founding member of the Army's only installation microgrid research group, formed in 2008 when she joined the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory.



WILLIAM LUCAS

U.S. Army

William Lucas has demonstrated exceptional meritorious achievement over 15 years of service focused on energy management at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. He has greatly impacted the energy program, improving the efficiency and resilience of critical energy, water, and mechanical systems for Arlington National Cemetery and Fort McNair—key military installations that support ceremonial and security missions in the capital region. Leveraging his knowledge of regulatory processes, Lucas secured higher official approvals, engaged the local utility, and obtained funding approval for numerous energy conservation and utility resilience projects.



RYAN HERNANDEZ

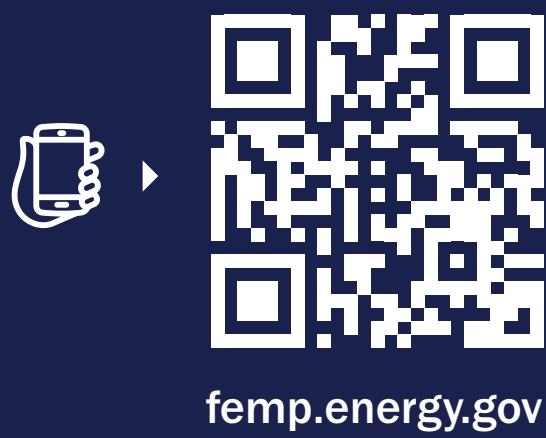
U.S. Army

Ryan Hernandez has devoted 17 years in the U.S. Army Energy Program to improving energy and water efficiency and resilience at the installation and Command Headquarters levels. Hernandez first contributed to a successful installation energy program in technical and supervisory roles at Fort Cavazos, Texas. More recently, he has served as Installation Management Command (IMCOM) energy division chief, providing all 104 installations in IMCOM's purview with programmatic and technical support on energy and water resilience, efficiency, and affordability.



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MATTHEW TROPIANO

U.S. Navy

As Region Energy Program Manager for Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central, Matthew Tropiano has helped advance energy and water projects through the U.S. Navy's Energy Project Selection Process and execution of funding by identifying requirements consistently year after year. Over the course of his career, Matthew has served as an energy champion and continues to advance initiatives in direct support of the Navy's Energy Program.



ERIN HOPE

U.S. Department of Energy

Erin Hope's two decades of service at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) are punctuated by outstanding achievements in advancing energy efficiency. Hope's partnerships with BPA's facilities team have led to electricity savings of 1.8 MW over his career. Hope has received six internal awards for his longstanding commitment to advancing energy efficiency, fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration, mentoring staff and interns, and guiding the next generation of energy efficiency engineers.



JOHN POSHKA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

John Poshka launched his federal career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2002, serving as director of public works and industrial hygienist. In 2009, he joined the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), where he steadily increased the efficiency of environmental operations as Green Environmental Management Systems manager. Under Poshka's leadership, the Erie VAMC became a model for sustainable operations, consistently earning Top 25 awards from Practice Greenhealth.



STEVE RUTLEDGE

U.S. General Services Administration

Leveraging decades of experience and leadership, Steve Rutledge has established himself as a performance contracting and energy expert at the General Services Administration (GSA). As the performance contract manager for GSA Region 7 he strategically reduced utility use in the region through outside-the-box approaches that yielded significant cost savings for taxpayers.



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Program Award Winners



JUSTIN KNIPPEL,
SHAWN MANKE,
ADAM RIEDEL,
LORI RUFF,
ZACHARY SONNTAG

U.S. Army - Minnesota
Army National Guard
Sustainability Program

The Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) comprises 11 major commands across Minnesota, supporting about 13,000 soldiers and airmen. Resilience is critical to MNARNG's dual mission serving the nation through homeland security and defense and serving Minnesota in response to domestic disasters and emergencies. To support and sustain the mission, MNARNG's Campaign Plan prioritizes energy, water, and waste reduction to boost facility resilience.



YUN CHUNSONG,
IN KI HONG,
JOO IM,
CHON KIM,
KYONG MIN KWON

U.S. Army - U.S. Army
Garrison Daegu – FEMP
Energy and Water
Management Program

U.S. Army Garrison Daegu Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has achieved monumental success in its pursuit of energy and water conservation, exceeding federal and Army goals. Through innovative approaches, strategic actions, and collaborative partnerships, DPW has improved the sprawling installation's energy and water efficiency while enhancing operational readiness.



HADASSA BAKER,
LARRY GRAHAM,
MICHAEL KERR,
DANIEL MCCALLISTER,
JEFF WILLIAMSON

U.S. Army - U.S. Army Garrison
Fort Riley Energy Management
Program

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley, Kansas, home of the Army's 1st Infantry Division energy program, has achieved remarkable success in driving significant energy and water efficiency improvements in while also enhancing resilience across the installation. Through a comprehensive approach integrating advanced technologies, behavioral change initiatives, and strategic partnerships, the program has yielded substantial reductions in energy and water consumption.



KEITH BENSON,
CHRIS CASNE,
SCOTT GRAY

U.S. Navy - Navy Energy
Program, Navy Installations
Command

For almost 10 years, Commander, Navy Installations Command has led and managed the U.S. Navy's Energy Program through a culture of energy excellence across 70 Navy installations and 10 Navy regions by establishing processes aligned to policies that support warfighters, implementing a more than \$300 million annual budget focused on developing tools and capabilities to implement energy/water security standards through the Installation Energy Program Summary Framework. The Navy Energy Program continues to innovate across diverse acquisition strategies and partner with communities, utility providers, systems commands, and contractors across a more than \$10 billion project portfolio.



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Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

Contracting Award Winners



MARTHA GRAY,
LARRY GRAHAM,
MICHAEL KERR,
JEFF WILLIAMSON,
JUSTIN WINGO

U.S. Army - Contracting Support in Testing of Fort Riley's Emergency Substation Generation Plan

As a pillar of support for U.S. national defense, resilient energy is key to ensure Fort Riley can withstand power outages and continue to maintain and rapidly deploy critical combat ready forces. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Defense Logistics Agency's Energy Contracting Office was instrumental in supporting Fort Riley's energy resiliency efforts through validation of the Directorate of Public Works Emergency Response Plan.



KNUD HERMANSEN,
KEVIN NGO,
JEREMY POTTS,
MATTHEW TROPIANO,
MINA YOUSEF

U.S. Navy – Navy Energy Resilience Conservation Investment Program P-950 Camp Lemonnier Djibouti

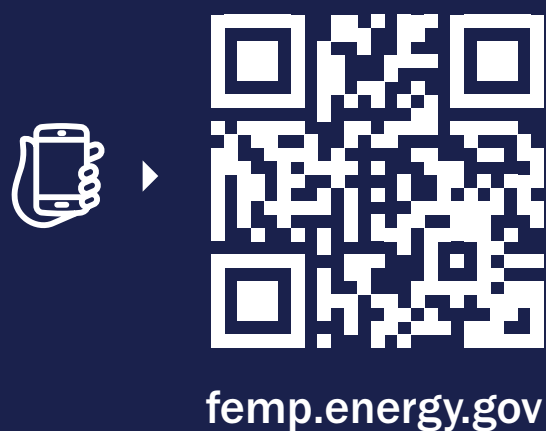
In 2024, Camp Lemonnier Djibouti, the U.S. Navy's only installation in Africa, was awarded a \$16.7 million Energy Resilience Conservation Investment Program project. Involving multiple energy conservation measures, this project will significantly increase energy security, controls, and efficiency for the installation, located in a highly operational region for our armed forces.



KEITH BENSON,
ERIC HAHN,
GUY WARNER

U.S. Navy - Navy Shore Type-Command (Commander, Navy Installations Command) Energy Program Research, Training, and Education

In Fiscal Year 2024, the Naval Postgraduate School and Pareto Energy LTD executed a pioneering Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, leveraging it to create an innovative research, training, and education project for the U.S. Navy Shore Type-Command Navy Energy Program, also known as Commander, Navy Installations Command. This initiative aims to enhance operational effectiveness and technological leadership by developing new intellectual capital to overcome performance contract barriers and apply innovative energy procurement techniques.





Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

Project Award Winners



DEAN ANDREWS,
MARK DENT,
KLAUS GUENTHER,
GEORGE MATUSAK,
MICHAEL RINGENBERG

U.S. Air Force - Energy Savings Performance Contract Yokota Air Base, Fussa, Japan

In Fiscal Year 2023, Yokota Air Base completed construction of a \$167 million energy savings performance contract (ESPC), bolstering resilience and enhancing energy efficiency at the base, which is a key hub for all operations in Japan, as well as some in the Republic of Korea. This is the first ESPC in the U.S. Air Force to deliver full on-base power generation capabilities.



DEAN ANDREWS,
CHRISTOPHER ARCHER,
ALEXANDER VINCENT,
MICHAEL RINGENBERG,
PAUL WENNER

U.S. Air Force - Energy Savings Performance Contract Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey

In Fiscal Year 2023, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst completed construction of the first phase of a \$48 million energy savings performance contract. This project installed 17.7 MW of roof-mounted solar photovoltaics across 36 facilities, leveraging financial mechanisms to secure \$34 million in savings over 22 years and generate \$2 million annually to fund future phases.



CRAIG FRANK,
KENNETH GREENE,
GARY JACKSON,
JEFFREY JASINSKI,
RALPH MERRILL

U.S. Marines – Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Energy Security and Resiliency Infrastructure Project

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, an all-weather jet base with a massive runway system, is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and Fleet Readiness Center East. Given its complex missions—including providing combat-ready aerial operations and unique littoral training—as well as threats like hurricanes and cyberattacks, the project team prioritized modern technologies to improve energy security, resilience, and operational efficiency.



KENNETH CURTIN,
PHILIP DAMICIS,
CHRISTOPHER MASON,
ANDREW SHETLAND,
JOSEPH SPRAGUE

U.S. Navy - Navy Installation Islanded Microgrid – Naval Submarine Base New London

An innovative microgrid has greatly enhanced the power diversification of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, transforming its electrical infrastructure into a smarter, more flexible system while addressing critical resilience, reliability, and security issues. Today, the microgrid powers the entire base, including moored submarines.



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ASHTON BANKS,
LANE BOMAR,
SYLVIA FARMER,
DARNEISHA PRICE,
CHRISTOPHER WOODRUFF

U.S. Army - Cascading Water Use at
a Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fort Irwin and the National Training Center in southern California provide state-of-the-art warfare training to brigade combat teams. Located in an area with limited annual rainfall, Fort Irwin is improving water efficiency at its wastewater treatment plant through a cascading water management system. This system allows water to be reused in processes with a lower quality requirement, and the project is anticipated to extend Fort Irwin's water supply by 1 year for every 12 years of operation.



JACK BEVERLY,
ALEXIS JONES,
JAY JUNG,
SAUL MARTINEZ,
ANDREW STRINGER

U.S. Army - Power Reliability
Enhancement Program, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers Black Start Exercise

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Power Reliability Enhancement Program (PREP) is helping to advance energy resilience and security at military installations across the country and overseas through the Black Start Exercise (BSE) Program. The BSE Program identifies and addresses energy vulnerabilities, with many recommendations immediately helping improve installation resilience in outages. The team's ability to execute quality exercises at a low cost has led to other federal agencies requesting PREP's services.



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JASON BOYD,
BENJAMIN BULLOCK,
BRIAN BURNHAM,
ALLEN COOK,
RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

U.S. Department of Commerce
- National Institute of Standards
and Technology Boulder Wing
5 Renovation Leadership in
Energy and Environmental
Design Gold Project

The National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado, has completed a major renovation of a 76,500-square-foot research facility, earning Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification for its sustainable design and operation. The renovation incorporated energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, significant water conservation measures, and an innovative design that preserved the building's historical character while modernizing it to support cutting-edge research.



JEFF FORSYTH,
IAN NEIL,
MORRIS PEARSON,
ROBERT SIMMS,
DEBORAH STEPHENS

U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Patent and Trademark
Office Data Center Relocation
Project

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office significantly improved its operational efficiency by relocating its data center to a modern colocation facility. The project team employed computational fluid dynamics analysis to meet or exceed ASHRAE Technical Committee 9.9 best practices for data center efficiency. The move reduced the data center's physical footprint from 32,000 to 10,000 square feet and cut electricity usage by more than two-thirds—from 1,093 kW to just 355 kW per month.



GARY BROWN,
SHEILA FEDDIS,
STEVE NEUS

U.S. Department of Energy
- Fermilab Helen Edwards
Engineering Research Center

Completed in 2023, the 80,000-square-foot Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory includes modular labs, high-bay areas, and flexible office and meeting spaces—serving as a model for co-locating science, technology, and collaboration to advance research breakthroughs. Designed with efficiency in mind, the site features native, drought-tolerant landscaping that negates the need for irrigation.



GABRIEL CALDERIN-
VAZQUEZ,
SIXTO DIAZ-ORTIZ,
JOSE L. PEREZ-VELEZ,
WILFREDO QUINONES,
RIVERA VEDA-CRUZ

U.S. Department of Veterans
Affairs - Installation of
Trihalomethane Removal
System Water Quality
Improvement Project

The Veterans Affairs Caribbean Healthcare System, which serves veterans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, has implemented a water quality and infrastructure improvement project featuring an innovative system that reduces disinfectant byproducts (DPBs) in drinking water. These harmful compounds—such as total trihalomethane and haloacetic acids—can form when disinfectants react with organic matter. While targeting DBP reduction, the system also ensures adequate disinfection to prevent Legionella bacteria.



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