

[News and Events](#)

(Section Home)

[Press Releases](#)
[Outlook Conference
and e-Conference](#)
[Annual Dinner](#)
[Publications](#)

(Section Home)



News and Events:

Press Releases

Bay Area Council Enters Into a Strategic Partnership With U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Promote ENERGY STAR

BAY AREA, June 3, 2002—The Bay Area Council announced today that it has entered into an agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote EPA's ENERGY STAR® partnership.

The partnership's goal is to encourage building owners and managers to use proven energy-efficient technologies to eliminate waste and lower operating costs. Through the efficient use of energy resources, the commercial buildings adopting ENERGY STAR strategies can help link energy and financial performance. This can also improve shareholder value.

ENERGY STAR provides partners with software tools and training, at no cost, to put participants on the path of turning energy savings into financial value. According to the EPA, utility costs make up nearly one-third of a typical office building's operating expenses. A 30 percent savings in energy costs can translate into a six percent increase in net operating income. An energy-efficient building is also more comfortable, convenient and attractive to tenants. From an owner's perspective, improved energy performance can result in lower operating expenses, higher net operating income, and enhanced asset value. Owning and working in energy-efficient buildings makes organizations more competitive, profitable, and valuable.

"The Bay Area Council encourages its members to join the program and enjoy its benefits," said Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. "In a highly competitive business climate, a program such as ENERGY STAR is certainly worthwhile for business executives and managers."

"EPA is proud to recognize the Bay Area Council for its leadership in partnering with ENERGY STAR," said Kathleen Hogan, director of EPA's Climate Protection Partnership Division. "We look forward to working with the Bay Area Council to demonstrate that strategic energy management helps the environment while furthering its members' business objectives."

About the Bay Area Council:

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for more than 275 major employers throughout the Bay Area region in promoting economic prosperity and quality of life. Sunne Wright McPeak has served as president and CEO of the Bay Area Council since 1996.

About ENERGY STAR:

ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. The program was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR now works with more than 7,000 partners to improve the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

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[Organizational Profile](#) | [News and Events](#)
[Programs and Policy Initiatives](#)
[Publications](#) | [Bay Area Council Membership](#)