



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY UTILITY

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## **DC Sustainable Energy Utility Celebrates First-Year Successes in Energy Reduction, Economic Development**

*The DC SEU completed more than 5,600 projects with DC businesses and residents in only 6 months of operation*

**December 15, 2011 (Washington, D.C.)** – The DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU) celebrates the completion today of a successful inaugural fiscal year as the region’s first comprehensive sustainable energy utility. Despite being in operation for only six months, the DC SEU met Fiscal Year 2011 (FY 2011) goals for reaching residents and businesses throughout the District with energy efficiency programs while creating opportunities for green jobs, making significant progress toward the District’s goals of a brighter, more sustainable energy future.

Since the approval and signing of the contract in March 2011, the DC SEU has completed more than 5,600 energy efficiency projects in the District, ranging from direct installations of efficient products and renewable energy measures in multifamily buildings and small commercial buildings to “mini-retrofits”—small energy efficiency measures—in single-family homes. Throughout the summer and fall, the DC SEU designed and implemented five “Quick-Start” programs using local contractors to perform energy-saving upgrades to low-income multifamily buildings, small businesses, and single-family residences in all eight Wards of the District. From installing energy-efficient light bulbs to insulating electric water heaters, these measures were simple and non-disruptive, and can save families and businesses noticeable amounts of money on their energy bills each month.

- The DC SEU’s **Low-Income Multifamily Quick-Start Program** provided more than 4,700 residences with energy-efficient upgrades and met its FY 2011 goal of dedicating 30% of the DC SEU’s contract budget to improving energy efficiency in low-income housing.
- The **Single-Family Residential Quick-Start Program**, which served 169 homes, provided residents with lighting upgrades, low-flow water devices, hot water tank and pipe insulation, and air sealing and insulation measures.
- Through its **Small Commercial Direct Install Quick-Start Program**, the DC SEU served 754 facilities with upgrades of lighting, pre-rinse spray valves, hot water tank and pipe insulation, and ENERGY STAR® air conditioners.
- The DC SEU also created the **Commercial and Institutional Lost Opportunities Program**, which was designed to capture energy efficiency opportunities with large commercial customers when they were making energy choices to replace old equipment, renovate a building, or begin new construction. As part of this program, the DC SEU partnered with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) to pilot demonstration programs, including lighting retrofits, the installation of new energy-efficient light fixtures, and a lighting management program to reduce energy consumption at the UDC campus.
- In addition to these commercial and residential direct installation programs, the DC SEU implemented a **Renewable Energy Quick-Start Program** a full year ahead of schedule, enabling the installation of 15 rooftop photovoltaic systems and 3 commercial solar hot water systems.



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In addition to its program goals, the DC SEU also:

- Designed and implemented a comprehensive consumer education and marketing plan;
- Recruited, hired, trained, and is now mentoring a committed and talented DC SEU staff;
- Developed strong relationships throughout the District.

The DC SEU's goals are designed to strengthen the District's economy by using DC-based contractors and vendors to implement its programs and by providing green jobs to DC residents. For FY 2011, 75% of all DC SEU spending on program implementation, employment, and supplies went to DC-based businesses, with 357 District residents employed in support of DC SEU programs and marketing. The employment base included temporary field staff, permanent office staff, and construction workers. The DC SEU also hired and trained 16 local contractors in energy efficiency work, building local DC contractors' ability to gain access to new markets and new customers, and increasing the skill base for their employees.

"Our company has enjoyed a very good working relationship with the DC SEU," said Ralph McMillan, CEO of R.O. McMillan and Associates, LLC, an energy conservation contractor. "Since working with them, we have hired and put to work fourteen District residents and helped many residents save money by making their homes more energy efficient."

With its 2011 Quick-Start programs coming to a close, the DC SEU is now scheduled to launch new, comprehensive efficiency programs in mid-January.

"Today, we celebrate the success of our first year in Washington, DC. We are extremely proud of the work the DC SEU and all of our partners have completed over 6 months, and will continue our commitment to providing DC residents green jobs, saving Washingtonians money, and creating a more sustainable, energy-efficient District," said Ted Trabue, Managing Director of the DC SEU. "We look forward to continuing to build a cleaner, brighter energy future for this city."

*Created by the City Council as part of the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 (CAEA), the DC SEU is managed by the Sustainable Energy Partnership under contract to the District Department of the Environment (DDOE).*

*For more information on the DC SEU, visit [www.dcseu.com](http://www.dcseu.com), or contact Maria V. Brown at 202-479-2222 or [mvbrown@dcseu.com](mailto:mvbrown@dcseu.com).*

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