

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2014

CONTACTS:

Mike Wessler, Governor's Office, 406.444.9725

Chris Saeger, Department of Environmental Quality, 406.444.2667

Lt. Gov. McLean Recognizes Work of State Employees to Save Taxpayers Millions, Improve Energy Efficiency

Helena, Mont. – Lt. Governor Angela McLean today honored a group of state employees for their nationally recognized work on energy-efficiency initiatives that saved the state millions of tax dollars.

The National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NAFSA) granted the State of Montana the 2014 NAFSA Innovations Award for the State's cutting edge work in energy efficiency and conservation. The Award was given to the Department of Administration's (DOA) Architecture and Engineering Division and the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Energy, Pollution, and Prevention Bureau for their innovative approach to promoting energy efficiency and conservation in Montana's state buildings.

"We are proud that Montana serves as an example to the nation by investing in projects that are efficient and save taxpayer money," said Lt. Governor Angela McLean. "Being smart about energy use and conservation is a strategy that saves Montanans nearly \$2 million per year. We will continue to champion energy efficiency in our own state buildings, and will continue to encourage conservation statewide."

The State of Montana's Architecture and Engineering Division entered into a partnership with DEQ to find and evaluate energy conservation measures, as well as handle the design, bidding and construction oversight of energy projects.

This partnership led to the implementation of energy and deferred maintenance projects, saving the State nearly \$2 million a year in utility costs, and completing more than 80 projects in a 3-year span. The Program has continued to prioritize energy retrofits of state-owned buildings, and save taxpayer money.

"State agencies working together to save tax dollars is just good government. It is good for the environment, too. I applaud our team," said DEQ Director Tracy Stone-Manning.

The winning DEQ team consisted of: David Lemieux, George Mathieus, Greg Oswood, Ron Pecarina, Andrea Stinson, Ken Phillips, Chris Batson, Lou Moore, Tina Chamberlain, and Susan McEachern.

DOA's team members included: Tom O'Connell, Jim Whaley, Russ Katherman, Mark Hines, Rick Hilmes, Paul Blumenthal, Cody Mitchell, Chris Ames, Bob Warfle, Janelle McBreen, Sharon Tobol, Terry Hoskins, Kathleen Sullivan, Joe Triem, and Sonia Powell.

"The Architecture and Engineering Division staff exemplifies the best in Montana government," said DOA Director Sheila Hogan. "Their ability to develop strategies and forge alliances to address critical state needs demonstrates the high level of innovation in all of state government."

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