

Washington State Energy Office

Energy Savings for Non-profits

The nonprofit sector has historically been overlooked by energy management programs. Energy Savings for Nonprofits (ESFN) was one of the country's first state-sponsored energy conservation programs offered specifically for day care centers, food banks, senior centers, health care centers, family shelters, and other human service nonprofit agencies. The state of Washington contains about 1,200 human service agencies. A 1987 study found that 92% of these spent approximately 20% of their operating budgets on energy.

The Washington State Energy Office (WSEO) in cooperation with Seattle City Light, Tacoma Public Utilities, and Snohomish County PUD, designed the ESFN program in 1987 to reduce operating costs for nonprofit organizations. By using fluorescent lights, wrapping hot water tanks, caulking windows, and installing other energy efficiency measures, WSEO knew that nonprofits could greatly reduce their energy bills and thus enhance and even expand their services. The ultimate goal of the ESFN program is to have nonprofit agencies spending their money on human services instead of energy-inefficient buildings.

The program provides a combination of technical, financial, and educational assistance. Fuel-blind energy audits are performed, typically by the local utility. Based on the audits, efficiency measures are recommended. The nonprofit chooses which measures to install, and after successful completion of the retrofit an inspection occurs prior to WSEO's reimbursement of applicable costs.

Over the program's history a number of funding requirements have been used. For instance, initially grants of \$4,500 were offered in select counties for buildings of 5,000 square feet or larger, \$2,000 for buildings less than 5,000 square feet, and no-interest loans were available up to \$30,000. In 1993, ESFN was budgeted to provide grants of up to \$20,000 requiring a 50% match. Large fluctuations in the grant and loan amounts offered each year have been due to the different amounts of money received by WSEO from the oil overcharge funds, the principal source of funding for the program.

Through November 19, 1992, 175 nonprofit human service agencies had completed projects through the ESFN program. Annual electric energy savings for the program total 5,255 MWh. Electric energy savings per participant were greatest in FY 1991 with 88,073 kWh saved and lowest in FY 1989 at 21,383 kWh.

The costs of the retrofits that have resulted from the ESFN program are borne by three different parties: WSEO, participating utilities, and the actual nonprofit organizations. All these costs combine to create gross program costs over the lifetime of the program of \$1,854,700. WSEO expenditures are made up of grants and administrative costs and total \$917,800. The utilities' share of the program costs (in grants only) total \$602,300. Customer contributions (which includes loans) have totalled \$334,600.

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WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY OFFICE Energy Savings for Non-profits

Sector: Nonprofit human service organizations

Measures: A wide range of energy conservation measures (as chosen by the nonprofit agency) are installed for nonprofit agencies unable to participate in other C&I programs.

Mechanism: Previously WSEO offered grants or no interest loans to finance installations. For FY 1993 only grants are available.

History: The program was first announced in November 1987. It continues today, having already reached 175 nonprofits.

FY 1992 Program Data

WSEO cost: \$94,600
Electric energy savings: 0.373 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 3.7 GWh
WSEO grants: \$44,700

Cumulative Data (FY 1988 - FY 1993)

WSEO cost: \$917,800
Electric energy savings: 22.5 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 52.6 GWh
WSEO grants: \$520,000
Participation rate: 15%

The Results Center produced 126 profiles of the most successful energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the United States and around the world in the early and mid 1990s. With the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ted Flanigan directed a research team at Colorado-based IRT Environment to produce and distribute these exceptional examples. Thanks to strong demand for solid case studies, The Results Center was supported by dozens of major utilities and energy associations worldwide. Today, The Results Center is managed again by Ted Flanigan, now at California-based EcoMotion Incorporated, a firm focused on strategic consulting, information dissemination, program design, outreach services, and aggressive implementation. To nominate highly successful programs, contact: The Results Center, c/o EcoMotion, 15375 Barranca Parkway, F-104, Irvine, CA 92618, (949) 450-7155, or TFlanigan@EcoMotion.us