



Helping Governments Save Energy

The Partnership: Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS)

The Goal: Help government agencies achieve direct energy and cost savings, mainly through the purchase of energy-efficient products – such as lighting, office equipment, air conditioners and vehicles - and through training and technical assistance.

The Result: In Mexico, for example, by the end of 2006, twenty-eight cities and four states had invested roughly \$25 million in energy-efficient equipment and lighting, resulting in cumulative energy cost savings of about 1 million U.S. dollars per year and a reduction in annual power-plant emissions of roughly 5,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

How they did it: After an unsuccessful effort to promote energy-efficient procurement at the Mexican national level, the Partnership for Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS) switched to a “bottom-up” strategy targeting municipal governments. In 2003, PEPS recruited eight Mexican cities to participate in a pilot project focused on the purchase of energy-efficient lighting and office equipment. PEPS developed procurement guidelines for the municipalities and provided direct training and technical assistance. “Tangible benefits from this program were almost immediate,” says Philip Coleman from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Encouraged by the pilot cities’ energy and cost savings, twenty other cities and four Mexican states joined the program in 2005.

Outlook: PEPS is now expanding the program to include a broader range of products, such as air conditioners and vehicles, and is hoping to work with more states and eventually the Mexican federal government. Based on the success in Mexico, the partnership is also initiating energy-efficient purchasing programs in other Latin American countries, beginning with Chile.

Background: The Partnership for Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS) was formed in the year 2000 and is directed by four non-profit organizations: the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Alliance to Save Energy, the International Institute for Energy Conservation and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. Besides Mexico, PEPS currently focuses on China and India, where it works directly with local agencies to promote energy conservation.

The partnership’s focus on the potential for savings within the public sector is based on the fact that 10 to 20 percent of a country’s energy use generally is attributed to government use. While governments have traditionally focused on regulating energy use in other sectors, they have only recently focused attention on their own energy consumption.

For more information:

www.pepsonline.org

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1416.html>

