

# Charting a Course to Energy Independence

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**ESPC and UESC Projects at Multiple Sites**

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**USDA Agricultural Research Service**





# Agricultural Research Service

- Research Arm of the USDA
- 3,200 Buildings in 103 Locations
- 13 Million SF
- Labs, Greenhouses, Animal Facilities
- \$30.5 Million in Utilities in FY 2008





# Agricultural Research Service





# ARS ESPC & UESC Policy

- 20% of annual energy expenditures must be used for energy improvements
- 50% of that must be ESPCs or UESCs
- In effect – all 20% must be UESCs or ESPCs





# Our Nationwide Approach

- Try UESCs first
  - Faster
  - Less complicated
  - More flexible
  - Less overhead
  - Smaller projects



- Do ESPCs where UESCs were not available



# Getting Started

- Electric Gas and Steam Meter Surveys
  - Every Building
  - Utilities and Account Numbers for All Fuels
- GSA Areawide Contracts
- Also used data for DESC
  - Electricity, natural Gas,  
Fuel Oil
- FEMP Training & Support





# Contact Utilities

- Called over 100 utilities
  - Ask about accounts - Very helpful
  - Ask for energy audits – 30 FREE energy audits
    - EISA requires energy audits
  - Ask for UESCs – Not so much
    - Don't Call the 800 number
    - Don't use their website
    - GSA areawide contracts
    - 10 Locations





# The Procedure Varies

- Each utility has it's own way of doing audits
  - Reports varied
  - You get what you pay for
- The basics
  - Initial report - FREE
  - Investment grade audit - \$
  - Design-build - \$
  - Financing or Not ?





# TX ESPC

- ARS has 4 ESPCs
- New ESPC for the State of Texas
  - No UESC available in TX
  - 13 locations
  - Combined utilities of \$3 Million
  - Bundle them
  - Southern Plains Area
- Start nationwide program





# Challenges

- Widely separated
- Are we redirecting appropriations?
- It's like herding squirrels
- The contract ceiling problem
- New contract
- ARRA funds hit
- Cold feet





## To Be Continued...

- Going forward to DES?
- Contract must be awarded before 12/31/09
- Not self funding – the P4
- The low hanging fruit
- Renewables impossible
- Some locations not included
- Includes some badly needed work





# Thank You

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