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Oklahoma Capitol, other buildings lauded for energy efficiency

Oklahoma buildings recognized for energy efficiency by federal program.

BY JULIE BISBEE  0
Published: August 26, 2010

The state Capitol and three other state-run buildings have been named Energy Star buildings by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The attorney general's building, 313 NE 23 St.; the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 N Lincoln Blvd.; and the Kerr-Edmondson building, 440 S Houston in Tulsa; also were recognized as buildings that use 35 percent less energy than similar buildings.

State facilities management officials have spent the past two years making changes to the Capitol to cut down on utility usage.

Some of the measures to conserve energy included reducing the hours that heating and cooling systems run, using compact fluorescent lights in fixtures that once held incandescent bulbs and adding electricity-generating wind turbines on the state Capitol complex. The Department of Central Services also installed LED parking lot lights. Toilets and faucets that use less water have replaced old fixtures.

Another plus for the state Capitol is that only the offices at the Capitol are heated and cooled. The Capitol's hallways and rotunda are not climate controlled, said Randy Ross, deputy director of Central Services.



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