

The University of Texas at Austin Announces Partnership with ENERGY STAR®

June 9, 2008

Dr. Pat Clubb, Vice President of Employee and Campus Services and Co-Chair of the President's Task Force on Sustainability, has announced that The University of Texas at Austin has become an official Energy Star® Partner. This voluntary partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR® program underscores the university's ongoing commitment to increasing energy efficiency and performance.

“ENERGY STAR® is an authority on the subject of energy conservation and offers the university a wide range of resources, strategies and assistance,” said Dr. Clubb. “We expect to benefit greatly from the benchmarking and sharing of ideas among all the ENERGY STAR® partners.”

As an ENERGY STAR® partner, the university will:

- Measure and track the energy performance of facilities at all locations.
- Set a goal to improve the energy efficiency of buildings by 10% or more, in support of the ENERGY STAR® Challenge.
- Encourage the campus community to make positive personal changes in their energy use in the workplace and at home through the *UTakeCharge* and other awareness initiatives.
- Encourage other institutions of higher education in Texas and beyond to take the ENERGY STAR® Challenge.

By reducing its energy consumption by 10% as an ENERGY STAR® partner, the university can save \$4.5M and 31.9 million kWh each year – the equivalent energy required to power nearly 2,300 Texas homes. This will also reduce air pollution by preventing 24,750 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere – the equivalent of removing over 5,600 vehicles from the road.

Announcement of the Energy Star® partnership follows the adoption last month of a Campus Sustainability Policy to integrate sustainability in academic programs, operations, campus planning, administration and outreach.

“Being an ENERGY STAR® partner reinforces the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship,” Dr. Clubb noted.

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For more information, visit these sites:

- ENERGY STAR®: www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES.
- The University of Texas at Austin sustainability policy:
http://www.utexas.edu/news/2008/05/06/sustainability_policy/
- UTakeCharge: <http://www.utexas.edu/utakecharge>

For more information about the university's ENERGY STAR® partnership, contact Laurie Lentz, 512-471-2273, or laurie.lentz@austin.utexas.edu.

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