

**Dalhousie University ENERGY STAR Participant of the Year**  
**ENERGY STAR Innovation Credit**

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Dalhousie University in Halifax is widely regarded as one of Canada's leading post-secondary institutions. Now, Dalhousie is showing leadership in another way in becoming the first university in Canada to become an ENERGY STAR Participant. In 2011 Dalhousie received a national award from the Government of Canada recognizing the institution as 'ENERGY STAR Participant of the Year.'

Since joining the program in 2009, Dalhousie has actively promoted ENERGY STAR qualified products through training workshops, procurement documentation, social marketing and other activities. The university's Office of Sustainability has targeted key purchasers on campus, including those working in Facilities Management, Housing and Conference Services, Purchasing, Information Technology Services and the Student Union. Awareness and education initiatives have also targeted individual purchasers on campus, including students.

Although a relative newcomer to the program, Dalhousie already lists an impressive range of ENERGY STAR initiatives. For example, ENERGY STAR clauses have been included in Requests for Proposals for products such as multi-functional devices, vending machines, gas furnaces and windows. The Office of Sustainability is also working with the Facilities Management group to incorporate ENERGY STAR specifications in design guidelines, and the university's purchasing policy is being revised to include ENERGY STAR language.

ENERGY STAR information, products, tools and case studies are used extensively by the Office of Sustainability in its ENERGY STAR and sustainable procurement training sessions. More than 50 people have already participated in these sessions and then gone on to provide ENERGY STAR procurement training to others at Dalhousie. The Office of Sustainability is currently exploring whether ENERGY STAR purchases can be tracked using the university's existing procurement tracking system.

The Campus Green Guide, which is distributed to about 1400 first-year students each year and is also available in many locations on campus, provides an explanation of ENERGY STAR and Dalhousie's pioneering involvement in the program. As well, posters have been developed and distributed around Dalhousie's campuses to increase awareness of ENERGY STAR.

An ENERGY STAR e-mail signature was developed, and the Office of Sustainability features the ENERGY STAR symbol and information prominently on its website. Other awareness-generating initiatives include a purchasing card sleeve featuring the ENERGY STAR symbol and the use of ENERGY STAR screen templates on LCD screens on campus.

By breaking new ground for ENERGY STAR in Canada, Dalhousie University has set an important and inspirational example for other universities and colleges across the country.