



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

GOLDEN FIELD OFFICE

DOE's Golden Office wins sustainability award for reducing IT energy use 61%

During tough economic times, it can be difficult for organizations to cut costs without reducing staff. One often overlooked measure is to reduce energy usage through greater energy efficiency. Recent efforts to drastically cut energy consumption at the Department of Energy (DOE)'s field office in Golden not only saved \$88,000 in taxpayer funding, but led the office's staff to be recognized nationally for their leadership and cost-reducing initiatives.

Staff in the Golden Field Office (GFO) in Golden, Colo., were recognized Nov. 3 with a DOE Sustainability Award for reducing their energy use 61 percent by using thin client computers, LED monitors, network printing and energy-efficient laptops. In addition, dozens of physical servers were consolidated or moved to virtual servers to reduce the hardware required in the office's data center. Golden Chief Information Officer Teri Harris accepted the award on behalf of her entire group at the ceremony at DOE's Headquarters in Washington D.C.



Deputy Department of Energy Secretary Daniel Poneman and Sustainability Performance Officer Jennifer McDonald congratulate DOE Golden Field Office Chief Technology Officer Teri Harris.

"It's a great honor for our office to receive the award," said Harris. "Our office has been one of the most important catalysts in DOE's attempt to improve energy efficiency throughout the nation.

We're making energy-efficiency improvements that save taxpayer money and can be implemented by other organizations in-and-outside of the government to reduce energy costs and help the bottom line."

Even though the number of users on its network increased by 152 percent since 2008, Golden's IT staff reduced IT energy consumption 61 percent, saving taxpayers more than \$88,000 in energy costs in fiscal year 2010 while enhancing IT security and reducing desktop support.



Thin clients such as this are helping the DOE Golden Field office reduce their energy consumption and energy costs.

Their efforts also help to meet Executive Order 13514 on Leadership in Environment, Energy, and Economic Performance, which President Obama signed in 2009. The Executive Order called for the federal government to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and implement aggressive energy and water efficiency programs. In response, DOE established sustainable goals in its annual Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan and established the DOE Sustainability Performance Office, which sponsored the 2011 Sustainability Awards.

The full list and descriptions of the award winners can be found [here](#).