

Reducing Energy Use

The U.S. Postal Service is currently achieving its facility energy reduction goals – ahead of our target year - 2015. Building on its history of environmental innovation, USPS is working to create a culture of conservation among nearly 491,000 employees, across nearly 32,000 facilities and among its suppliers and partners in the mailing industry.

- Between 2003 and 2012, USPS reduced overall building related energy consumption 11 trillion British thermal units (Btu). That is a 34-percent reduction and is the equivalent of the amount of energy used by more than 100,000 average U.S. households in a year.
- Detailed energy audits at the largest energy-consuming buildings have identified trillions of Btus of potential energy reductions.
- Revisions to USPS building design standards call for high-efficiency HVAC, lighting, and windows when these items need to be replaced, and for automated controls to enable each building system to operate with maximum energy efficiency.
- The USPS Utility Management System (UMS) streamlines and centralizes utility bill payment and verification, and captures detailed consumption and cost data from USPS' largest facilities for the most common utilities.
- Lighting and lighting controls in mail processing facilities continue to be upgraded to include energy-efficient fluorescent lighting, reducing energy use and creating a cleaner environment and brighter workplace.
- The Postal Service continues to pursue several types of renewable energy technologies in facilities around the country, including the use of solar energy and geothermal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).
- With the largest civilian fleet of alternative fuel-capable vehicles (more than 42,000) USPS is using several low-energy mail delivery methods. Mail is delivered by bicycle in Arizona and Florida. And 2-ton electric vehicles have been delivering mail in New York City since 2001. Three-wheel electric vehicles are being tested as possible replacements for traditional gasoline delivery vehicles in Arizona, California and Florida. USPS continues to research and test a wide range of alternative fuels and alternative-fuel capable vehicles.

