

Maine Department of Corrections, Downeast Correctional Facility – 50001 Ready

WHY 50001 READY?

The U.S. Department of Energy's 50001 Ready program is a self-paced, no-cost way for organizations to build a culture of structured energy improvement that leads to deeper and sustained energy and GHG savings. Recognition is available for facilities and organizations that self-attest to the implementation of an ISO 50001-based energy management system without external audits or certifications.

Overview

Downeast Correctional Facility, located in Machiasport, Maine, is a minimum-security, reentry-focused correctional facility that houses up to 48 residents. To prepare each resident for societal reintegration, Downeast offers a variety of programming, including work release at local blueberry and lobster trap facilities, with tree-clipping and wreath making accounting for the bulk of labor performed. Downeast residents are collectively one of the major producers of wreaths in the U.S. Running 12-hour shifts, 18 staff members work at the facility, providing supervision and food service, and approximately 10 volunteers provide chaplain services, facilitate support groups, and offer educational programs.

Prior to engaging with 50001 Ready, Maine Department of Corrections (DOC), of which the Downeast facility is a part, was proactive in finding energy efficiency solutions for the state's facilities. For example, the DOC sought building efficiency guidance from the governor's office and various organizations and architectural firms within the state, including Efficiency Maine, an organization founded by the state and the Maine Public Utilities Commission. At the Maine Correctional Center, Efficiency Maine installed new boilers with smart controls that optimize operating times to only run as needed, and installed solar panels at the Downeast facility.

"50001 Ready has provided us a structure to items we have been doing. In the early stages of the project this system has helped us identify an area of weakness. We will be able to continue on our track towards decarbonization with this guidance."

– Steven French, Manager of Correctional Operations,
Maine Department of Corrections



The front entrance of the Maine Downeast Correctional Facility.
Photo credit: Maine DOC.

Solutions

Maine DOC began participating in 50001 Ready through a targeted corrections cohort organized by the Sustainable Correctional Infrastructure Partnership (SCIP) Accelerator, a voluntary Department of Energy initiative. Motivated by an executive order from the governor for the Lead by Example initiative, the agency aimed to identify energy efficiency pathways that would reduce the state correctional facilities' carbon footprint while also reducing energy costs.

Supported through DOE's SCIP cohort and coaches from the energy consulting firm VEIC, as well as resources from 50001 Ready, the Downeast Correctional Facility successfully implemented an energy management system that secured its 50001 Ready designation in September of 2022. Since achieving this status, the Downeast facility continues to benefit from having a structured process in place for managing energy, as well as looking at life cycle replacement costs for energy-consuming equipment, performing preventative maintenance, and conducting routine system checks.

Now equipped with 50001 Ready experience and expertise, Maine DOC plans to take lessons learned through 50001 Ready implementation at the Downeast facility and apply them to other correctional sites in the state. With a replicable

template to follow, the DOC is confident that at least three of the five remaining facilities will implement an energy management system using 50001 Ready, beginning with the next location early in 2024. DOE's online 50001 Ready Navigator tool offers multi-facility functionality that can streamline certain elements of the process.

Key Takeaways: Implementing A 50001 Ready Energy Management System

- ▶ **An invested cohort:** Individual coaching enabled staff to ensure their proposed solutions were actionable. When working through the tasks outlined in the 50001 Ready Navigator, the cohort training and associated resources provided Maine DOC and Downeast personnel with a clear outline of the requirements for each task and facilitated completion of many of the tasks. The brainstorming and deliberation process for the Downeast facility was significantly condensed due to the efforts made by Maine DOC's self-motivated and proactive energy team.



Downeast Correctional Facility Energy Team from left to right: Bill Beverly and Dave Garrison. *Photo credit: Maine DOC.*

- ▶ **Bonus features:** Taking advantage of 50001 Ready's compatibility with EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager helped with data tracking and analysis, as Portfolio Manager can be used to collect energy data for 50001 Ready's Energy Performance Improvement Report. The Downeast team used Portfolio Manager as a means of demonstrating and tracking its energy performance. Organizations that plan to implement 50001 Ready at multiple sites already using Portfolio Manager can manage energy data via this feature to save time and effort.
- ▶ **A centralized structure:** Maine DOC central office organized a team of staff best equipped to work with the Downeast facility in coordinating 50001 Ready efforts.



Central Office team from left to right: Steven French, Tracy Sebranek, Jennifer Michaud & Gary LaPlante. *Photo credit: Maine DOC.*

This same structure will be used for subsequent facilities targeted for implementing an energy management system and seeking 50001 Ready recognition.

- ▶ **External expertise:** Maine DOC and the Downeast Correctional Facility benefitted from expertise and guidance from a variety of organizations, including DOE's Better Plants program, VEIC, DOE's SCIP 50001 Ready cohort, and the State of Oregon Department of Corrections, which has a number of correctional facilities that have achieved 50001 Ready recognition from DOE.
- ▶ **One step at a time:** The energy team consisted of two staff in the agency's main office working with four Downeast facility managers. At first, the team felt overwhelmed with the amount of information contained in the guidance. By tackling each of the 25 tasks one at a time, then discussing with each other during bi-monthly meetings, everything began to fall in line. David Garrison, Unit Manager at the Downeast Correctional Facility, found that by starting small, then methodically working through each section, the team was able to quickly build momentum with its energy management system.

Other Benefits

Beyond energy savings, Maine DOC credits 50001 Ready with helping to devise better practices for identifying maintenance issues, maintaining compliance with correctional standards, and improving facility safety.

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