# Oregon Department of Corrections

## 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

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is committed to energy efficiency as a sustainable means to lower emissions, lead by example, and reduce the cost of operations. Oregon DOC has worked with the Energy Trust of Oregon's strategic energy management (SEM) program, developing strong energy policies and goals, encouraging staff to find new ways to save energy, and prioritizing investments to decrease energy demands. Oregon DOC uses EPA's Portfolio Manager to track energy consumption and set performance benchmarks. Its facilities submit monthly reports on their contributions toward Oregon DOC's 2023 goal to reduce energy use by 20%.

In 2018, Oregon DOC was the first agency in the corrections sector to earn 50001 Ready recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Collectively, eight of Oregon DOC's facilities have earned the designation, including more than 63 buildings serving diverse functions such as administration, housing, textile manufacturing, warehousing, refrigeration, food preparation, education, recreation, religious services, laundry, and medical assistance. The eight facilities include:

- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution
- Central Distribution Center
- Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
- Deer Ridge Correctional Institution
- Powder River Correctional Facility
- Santiam Correctional Institution
- Snake River Correctional Institution
- Warner Creek Correctional Facility

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) contains 1,682 beds, a garment factory and commercial laundry facility. *Photo: Communications Office, Oregon DOC.*

***"We are seeing new guidelines being added at the state level for energy efficiency and EUI reduction. 50001 Ready gives us the stepping stones in the right direction to meet those goals."***

—Travis Brown, Sustainability Manager, Oregon DOC

## Solutions

Oregon DOC exceeded its initial 50001 Ready goal of four facilities attaining 50001 Ready status in just one year (2018)—and then added five more facilities between 2019 and 2024 (including one facility that has since been closed). Oregon DOC is leveraging the multi-site features of DOE's online **50001 Ready Navigator** tool to centrally observe the status of the energy management systems at all of its facilities. By accessing the Navigator's multi-site dashboard, the Sustainability Manager can easily monitor and manage progress at all sites, including any site-specific energy management activities. This functionality helps to inform monthly reports and discussions, while reinforcing and further motivating each facility. Regular updates on energy savings and progress toward goals have elevated the energy awareness of staff and adults in custody at each site.

Oregon DOC supplemented its involvement with the 50001 Ready program by joining DOE's Sustainable Corrections Infrastructure Partnership (SCIP) Accelerator, along with continued participation in the ENERGY STAR program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Other facilities, including the department's Two Rivers facility, are also on their way toward achieving 50001 Ready status.

## Key Takeaways: Implementing a 50001 Ready Energy Management System

- **Setting SMART goals:** Taking a structured approach to maintenance goals helps improve communication among team members, different facilities, and utilities. When everyone is following a set protocol such as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based) goals and understands what they are trying to achieve, they can more effectively support one another's efforts, and significant changes can begin to unfold.
- **Relying on tried-and-true tools:** Oregon DOC leveraged EPA's **Portfolio Manager** for its 50001 Ready energy consumption reporting. [Note: The 50001 Ready Energy Reporting Template for Portfolio Manager can be downloaded directly; ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Indicator reports may also be submitted.]
- **Staying in step with the seasons:** Oregon DOC staff report that scheduling seasonal changes to how their systems and equipment are run has led to a notable decrease in energy consumption. Being prepared for seasonal shifts and programming the necessary changes has led to peace of mind among the energy team and other staff, who are less concerned about missing out on potential savings.

***"The Department of Corrections has been committed to sustainability efforts since the first sustainability plan was launched in 2013. DOC set ambitious goals around sustainable operations and bringing on nature programming for adults in custody. The overarching goal and sustainability mission is to focus on being committed to sustainability and stewardship of our natural resources and environment."***

—Tracy Wilder, Interim Facilities and Distribution Services Administrator, Oregon DOC

- **Fostering a feedback loop:** The department's Deer Ridge facility continues to upgrade old appliances (including a dishwasher) to more efficient options, and the Coffee Creek facility recently underwent a major overhaul of its HVAC system. The resultant reduction in power usage, in turn, reduces costs, which enables the facility again to upgrade equipment, lower costs, and so the cycle continues.
- **Adopting a growth mindset:** Oregon DOC performed a window study in July 2023 as part of ongoing initiatives to determine additional opportunities for improvement. This sort of reconnaissance effort, as well as team development and constant monitoring, is viewed as essential to maintaining momentum toward efficiency goals. A proactive approach is a necessary part of making the most of an energy management system.

Dusty Farrell of Energy Trust testing the efficiency and action of a steam valve operating at the correct temperatures. *Photo credit: Travis Brown*

## Other Benefits

Having an energy management system in place has eased transitions for Oregon DOC's team members. Established protocols that can easily be conveyed and replicated by new staff mean that the system can continue delivering benefits to facilities when team members change jobs or retire and new team members are onboarded.

*Updated 2024.04.19*