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## **NEEP Recognizes American University as 2013 Northeast Business Leader for Energy Efficiency**

*American University is lauded for fostering the economy and protecting the environment through energy efficiency*

**April 23, 2013 (Washington, DC)** - [Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships](#) (NEEP) has announced that American University (AU) will be recognized as a 'Northeast Business Leader for Energy Efficiency' at the Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit in Springfield, MA on June 18-19, 2013. Nominated by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU), the university is being honored for its continued efforts to advance campus-wide energy efficiency through projects such as a major lighting upgrade at Bender Arena.

Bender Arena, located in the geographic center of American University's campus is a multi-purpose facility that is the home to the university's intercollegiate and recreational athletics program, and hosts commencement, concerts and world renowned speakers. Working with the DC SEU, AU replaced more than 50 metal halide lamps with high-performance T5 fluorescent systems and installed controls with remote software programmed to turn off the lights when the Arena is not in use. The improved lighting and controls modernize the space, cut energy use by more than 350 MWh a year for a total of more than \$50,000 in cost savings annually, and reduces the cooling necessary when the gym is in use.

"The DC SEU has really helped contribute to making this viable for us to start to develop these opportunities and continue towards our plan to be a carbon neutral campus by 2020," said David Osborne, Director of Energy and Engineering at American University. Through this partnership, the DC SEU reviewed proposals for a lighting and controls retrofit to AU's Bender Arena. AU is committed to continuous improvements in campus-wide energy efficiency and is currently working with the DC SEU to upgrade lighting in three parking garages to energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs), to compliment the LED lights installed in School of International Service parking garage built in 2010, and make HVAC improvements to the American University Library.

"NEEP is proud to recognize American University for their success and commitment to energy efficiency," said Sue Coakley, Executive Director of NEEP. "American University provides an excellent example of how energy-efficient measures can improve a university's bottom line and reduce environmental impact."

American University will be recognized, along with 11 other Northeast Energy Efficiency Business Leaders at the 2013 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit. The event is open to the public and members of the media are invited to attend at no charge. Further details about the Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency Program can be found here: [www.neep.org/neep-events/neep-summit/](http://www.neep.org/neep-events/neep-summit/).

### **ABOUT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

*American University is a leading university in Washington, DC characterized by its global outlook, practical idealism, and a passion for public service. From the compost and recycling bins, to "The American Dream is Green" campaign, and from solar panels to green roofs, AU's commitment to sustainability is visible when you walk onto campus. AU prioritized "an active pursuit of sustainability" in its university-wide Strategic Plan and has Climate and Sustainability Plans that reach all levels of campus life, from zero waste to carbon neutrality. Energy is at the heart of AU's commitment to sustainability as demonstrated by the school's energy efficiency improvements, commitment to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2020, and the campus' solar electric and hot water arrays – the largest in the District.*

**ABOUT the DC SEU**

Created by the City Council as part of the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 (CAEA), the DC SEU is managed by the Sustainable Energy Partnership under contract to the District Department of the Environment (DDOE). For more information on the DC SEU, visit [www.dcseu.com](http://www.dcseu.com), or contact Hanna Grene at 309-3839 or [hgrene@dcseu.com](mailto:hgrene@dcseu.com).

**ABOUT NEEP**

NEEP was founded in 1996 as a non-profit whose mission is to serve the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic to accelerate energy efficiency in the building sector through public policy, program strategies and education. Our vision is that the region will fully embrace energy efficiency as a cornerstone of sustainable energy policy to help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. For more information visit [www.neep.org](http://www.neep.org).

**ABOUT THE NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUMMIT**



NEEP's Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit, June 18-19 in Springfield, MA, is the premier regional forum to learn about and become involved in energy efficiency in the Northeast. This two-day event brings together leaders from across the region in public policy, business, energy efficiency solutions, and consumer and environmental advocacy to support the vision of energy efficiency as a solution to the challenge of reliable and clean energy.

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