

Power Plays That Work

(NAPSA)—“I’ve come to the conclusion that energy policy is like the weather: Everyone has an opinion on it but expects someone else to do something about it,” said the United States Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman, at the 18th Annual Energy Efficiency Forum. Harsh words, perhaps. But it had to be said.

He wasn’t talking about average homeowners changing light bulbs and air filters. He was talking about major energy users—corporate America.

The single largest consumers of energy in the country are large commercial and nonresidential buildings. That includes office buildings, schools, government agencies, healthcare facilities, retail centers and military complexes. According to the International Energy Agency, these structures are responsible for nearly 40 percent of all energy consumed.

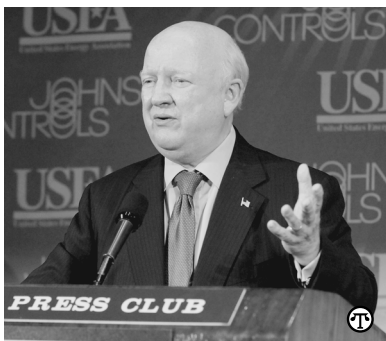
Obviously, it will take a great deal more than changing old incandescent bulbs and cleaning filters in order for these buildings to make a difference. Johnson Controls, Inc., a building efficiency solutions-provider to companies around the world, recommends the following advice to get businesses headed in the right direction:

1. Appoint an “Energy Czar.” Someone must be responsible for driving efforts.

2. Conduct an energy audit; it’s the basis for determining current energy usage. Be sure to set future savings goals.

3. Install a building-management system. They can save millions.

4. Consider “performance contracting.” This allows you to make upgrades now but pay for them



United States Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman addresses the 18th Annual Energy Efficiency Forum.

later with funds generated from energy savings.

5. Include renewable energy. Pairing it with efficiency measures yields greater savings.

6. Make employees aware of energy usage. Even turning out unnecessary lights and reducing water usage will go a very long way.

For any energy-efficiency plan to be effective, everyone in the company will have to be aware of and responsible for executing these best practices.

Secretary Bodman made another interesting observation while at the Energy Efficiency Forum in Washington, “When it says United States Secretary of Energy on your business card, like it does on mine, the person they expect to do something about it [energy] is me.” In reality, it will take the persistent efforts of each and every one of us.

For more information about how your company can reduce energy expenses, click the “Building Efficiency” link at www.johnsoncontrols.com.