

Featured Story

Met Tract Receives Highest Award for Using Less Energy in Kilowatt Crackdown

On May 18, Clarence Clipper, Dan Novack, Laura Thomas, Vicki Fehl, Meghan Robertson, Brett Phillips and the entire Met Tract team were awarded the Kilowatt Cup, the grand prize for superior achievement in energy management in the Better Bricks' Kilowatt Crackdown contest. This award recognized the Met Tract for having three award-winning properties, overcoming unique obstacles, and emphasizing energy efficiency through no- and low-cost practices. The Met Tract buildings were competing in a pool of 53 buildings, representing 18 million square feet of office space.

In addition to the Kilowatt Cup, the Met Tract received three other awards. The Greatest Improvement in Efficiency category recognized buildings making the greatest percentage gain in energy performance rating in one year. First place was awarded to Financial Center and the third place award was given to IBM Building.

The Most Efficient Building category honored buildings with the overall highest energy performance rating at the close of the competition. Skinner Building tied for second with the Fourth & Madison building as the most efficient building with a 95 ENERGY STAR score. The most efficient building, Federal Office Building, won this honor with a score of 99.

The Met Tract began participating in the Kilowatt Crackdown contest in the Fall of 2007 and all participants were required to benchmark their energy usage that time through March 2009. The Met Tract team tracked energy performance, calculated the ENERGY STAR® rating, and worked to improve the building score within one year. Participants used the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to calculate the building's energy use. This benchmarking tool accounts for weather, building location, use and operating characteristics, giving an impartial measure of building efficiency.

The Kilowatt Crackdown is a yearly a competition for office properties in the Puget Sound area and the Kilowatt Cup award is a rotating award, given to the company with the top performance each year.

"But we plan to keep this award here next year, too," said Clarence, referring to the boldly displayed award in Unico's reception area made of recycled building materials.

The Kilowatt Crackdown is sponsored by Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy, Tacoma Power, Snohomish PUD, BetterBricks, and the Energy Efficiency Alliance, which is supported by local electric utilities.

