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# Facilities Engineering

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JOURNAL

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

MAKING  
MAINTENANCE  
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- Make a Plan, Protect Your Assets
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- Generation Next: The New Wave of Facilities Engineers

**A**FE Association for  
**FACILITIES  
ENGINEERING®**

# AFE Joins Forces with the Association of Energy Engineers to

# TRAIN & CERTIFY

## Government Building Operators

BY JEANINE R. SALIFOU

AFE and AEE offer federal building personnel the training to operate and manage buildings in an energy friendly and cost effective manner

**T**he federal government is about to encounter a new energy crunch. The government's objective for energy consumption is a 30 percent reduction in consumption by 2015, as mandated in the Energy & Independence Act of 2007. At the same time, budget-conscious legislators on Capitol Hill are clamoring for ways to cut the budget — and they realize that operating 500,000 federally owned or leased buildings in a more efficient manner would help them put a damper on the growing federal deficit.

So how does the government hope to reach this lofty energy savings goal without having to spend billions of dollars to retrofit building with state-of-the-art equipment? One of the most important ways is to give federal building personnel the training they need to operate buildings in the most energy and time efficient manner.

Recognizing this urgent need, Congress last year passed the Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act, requiring that federal workers must undergo training and become certified in a series of core competencies related to building operations, maintenance, energy management, safety and future performance.



Recognizing the need for more efficient operations of the federal government's owned or leased facilities, AFE Executive Director Wayne Carley, PhD, and AEE Executive Director Al Thumann, PE, CEM, began exploring the possibility of a joint certification program in 2010.

Around that time, leaders from the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE) and the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) began discussing the possibility of joining forces to meet the training needs of the federal workers in this area.

AFE and AEE have designed a relevant course program and accompanying certification — Government Operator of High-Performance Buildings (GOHP). The course and certification program provide the necessary information about the core competencies and offers continuing education for federal building operators, contractors and facility managers in energy management and sustainability.

The preparatory course for the GOHP certification exam has come to be known as the Fundamentals of Facility Management

for Government High-Performance Buildings. It will assist building operators and facility managers in operating buildings in accordance with the industry's best practices and standards, which include reducing energy consumption and costs, improving the working environment and reducing the environmental impacts of government facilities.

"AFE is pleased to partner with AEE for the GOHP," said Wayne Carley, PhD, executive director of AFE. "The unique combination of skill sets our two organizations bring to the facilities community will greatly strengthen the capacity of federal facilities managers."

Added Albert Thumann, PE, CEM, executive director, AEE: "The federal government has over 500,000 owned or leased buildings and must improve operations to



# All Government Building Personnel and Contractors Will Need to Be Certified Soon!

Sign up for our new preparatory course: **Fundamentals of Facility Management For Government High-Performance Buildings**

This course is designed to provide energy management, sustainability, and operations and maintenance training for government personnel and contractors operating government high-performance buildings. The course will equip these professionals with comprehensive, up-to-date knowledge needed to operate buildings in accordance with industry best practices and procedures; reduce energy consumption and costs; improve the working environment; and minimize the environmental impact of government facilities.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- > **High Performance Rating Systems and Energy Auditing**  
Scott Dunning, Ph.D., P.E., C.E.M.
- > **Improving Maintenance and Operating Procedures for Lighting**  
Scott Dunning, Ph.D., P.E., C.E.M.
- > **Operating Boilers, Chillers, Motors and Drives for High Performance**  
Larry Ross, CPE, CPMM
- > **Operation and Maintenance Practices for High-Performance Government Buildings**  
Mike Cowley, CPMM
- > **Retrocommissioning**  
Michelle Stezelberger, P.E., CPE

## LOCATIONS/DATES

- > **Washington, DC** / April 30 - May 4, 2012
- > **St. Louis, MO** / August 13-17, 2012
- > **Washington, DC** / September 10-14, 2012

## DISCOUNT FOR AFE MEMBERS

Learn more about AFE Certification

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**AFE** Association for  
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## **GOHP Certification Course Instructors**



AFE member **MIKE COWLEY**, CPMM, has over 30 years of hands-on experience in the production maintenance and facility engineering fields, including extensive involvement in all aspects of facility management. His mechanical engineering education as well as experience in working with an extensive number of manufacturing industries and all major types of facility operations both private and governmental agencies, has given him an unusual insight into how organizations operate. Cowley is an active member on the AFE professional development committee.



AEE member **SCOTT DUNNING**, PhD, PE, CEM., is a professor and director of the University of Maine's School of Engineering Technology. Dunning is recognized as a national expert in energy efficiency and serves as one of six key instructors for AEE, providing training for certified energy managers. As founding director of the University of Maine's Industrial Assessment Center, he led over 200 industrial assessments of facilities throughout New England.



AFE member **LARRY ROSS**, CPE, CPMM, and chair of the AFE professional development committee, has broad facilities management experience as senior director of engineering for Erickson Living throughout the country, encompassing in excess of 400 buildings from independent living through skilled nursing care and hospice. Ross earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering, and holds numerous licenses and certifications. Ross also serves on several maintenance, technical and guideline committees for ASHRAE, including Continuous Maintenance for Guideline 0, GPC 1, 2 Retro-Commissioning, TPC 1.2 Building Commissioning and 90.1 for High-Performance Buildings.



AFE member, **MICHELLE STEZELBERGER**, PE, CPE, serves as commissioning project manager at Kibart, Inc., where she manages commissioning efforts on over 20 current projects.

She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in mechanical engineering, is a licensed professional engineer and LEED-accredited professional, and is ASHRAE commissioning project manager certified. Stezelberger is currently on the AFE certified plant engineer committee.

meet the 30 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2015 as mandated in the Energy & Independence Act of 2007. This training and certification program developed by AEE and AFE will help government building operators meet this goal."

As Larry Ross, CPE, CPMM, senior director of engineering at Erickson Living and chair of the AFE professional development committee, said recently: "The training collaboration between AFE and AEE is designed to provide energy management, sustainability and operations and maintenance training for government personnel and contractors operating Government High-Performance Buildings."


The result, said Ross, who was instrumental in developing the program, "is a course which will help both the taxpayer and the environment. At the same time, it will help the government meet its energy reduction goals for federal buildings."

The course includes information on energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems, LEED certification, building controls and sensors, resource management, general management, facilities operations budgets and management, retro-commissioning, and other topics chosen to help government building operators do their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

**"AFE is pleased to partner with AEE for the Government Operator of High-Performance Buildings. The unique combination of skill sets our two organizations bring to the facilities community will greatly strengthen the capacity of federal facilities managers."**

Government building operators, including contractors who operate buildings for the government, will be required to pass an approved certification exam. The GOHP certification examination confirms core competencies necessary for facility management and operations of Government High-Performance Buildings.

The course instructors have extensive experience and knowledge in a wide range of building types and systems, and are well-versed in the latest building technologies. [See sidebar for the instructors' bios.]

If you are a government facility worker or contractor, you owe it to yourself to sign up for the GOHP course and exam as soon as possible. The course will not only help you to become a better and more efficient worker — it will also help the government to meet its energy objectives and take another step in narrowing the nation's budget deficit. 



**Jeanine R. Salifou**, is director of professional development for AFE. She can be reached at [jsalifou@afe.org](mailto:jsalifou@afe.org).