

NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 2003

Contact: Cynthia Putnam, NEEC, 206-292-3977

***Building Operator Certification Receives National Honor: The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Recognizes the BOC Program as “Exemplary”***

*[Seattle, WA]* — The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is pleased to announce that the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a nonprofit research group based in Washington, D.C., has recognized NEEC’s Building Operator Certification as an “exemplary program” as part of a national awards program to honor America’s best energy efficiency programs. Building Operator Certification (BOC) is a growing national energy efficiency certification for building operators offered in partnership with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Wisconsin Focus on Energy, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the four California investor-owned utilities.

ACEEE initiated this awards program in 2002 to recognize outstanding energy efficiency programs and honor the people and organizations responsible for their success. The Building Operator Certification program was selected from among over 130 nominations received from across the United States, covering a wide variety of programs. An expert panel reviewed all the nominations and selected just 31 programs, covering 20 different program categories, to be recognized as “exemplary programs.”

Programs selected for this honor were deemed to be especially noteworthy for their effectiveness and innovation in helping customers achieve greater levels of energy efficiency in their homes, businesses, and facilities. “We’re glad to include BOC in the resources we promote to our commercial/industrial customers,” said Syd France, Manager of Energy Efficiency Services, Puget Sound Energy. “It really shows we’re interested in our customers’ welfare, as well as our being an active supporter of energy conservation.”

In doing so, these programs helped reduce customers’ energy costs and also yielded significant broader economic and environmental benefits. According to Martin Kushler, Ph.D., ACEEE’s Utilities Program Director, “We sought to recognize the many unsung heroes of state and utility efforts to improve energy efficiency, and spotlight these programs as models for others to emulate.”

ACEEE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to research and policy development to advance energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. NEEC is a business association of the energy efficiency industry working to enhance the market for energy efficiency technologies, products and services.

#####