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Blackmon named 2017 Champion for Energy Savings Performance Contracting

The Energy Services Coalition (ESC) recently named Mary Blackmon, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Energy Division, as the national organization's 2017 Public Sector Champion for Energy Savings Performance Contracting. The award recognizes outstanding contributions by a public sector individual for their efforts helping governments and school systems use energy efficiency to achieve savings in their always-stretched budgets.

The Energy Services Coalition presented Mary with the 2017 Public Sector Champion Award at the group's 6th Annual Market Transformation Conference on August 11 in Henderson, Nev.

"Mary was nominated for the award based on her work promoting and furthering performance contracting in Alabama," said Jim Arwood, ESC Executive Director. "Through her efforts she has increased awareness for Energy Savings Performance Contracting, making more entities aware of what it is, what it does, and how it leads to energy savings."

The way energy savings performance contracting works is a list of energy conservation measures is negotiated in the form of a contract between a public agency and an energy services company (ESCO). The ESCO will implement the contracted measures at no upfront cost to the public agency, with repayment coming through the monthly savings those facilities realize on their energy bills. It enables building owners to use future energy savings to pay for up-front costs of energy-saving projects, eliminating the need to dip into capital budgets. If the ESCOs do not meet their savings guarantee, then they pay the difference.

"I am very excited, flattered and humbled," Mary said. "There are so many states doing this, so it was an honor just to be considered."

The equipment upgrades include energy-efficient lighting, heating and air conditioner systems, insulation and building automation that helps control energy measures such as lighting and temperature.

“The Performance Contracting program has taken great strides since Mary has taken over,” said Karl Frost, chief of the Energy Division’s Energy Efficiency Unit. “We are immensely proud of her and the work she has put forth to make it happen.”

Energy Savings Performance Contracting has been around since the energy crisis in the late 1970s. Nationally, it is a \$5-6 billion dollar industry today, and is projected to double or triple in size by the year 2020.

About the Energy Services Coalition

The Energy Services Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of, providing education on, and serving as an advocate for the widespread use of guaranteed energy performance contracting in public and private facilities. The ESC provides a unique forum in which all stakeholders can work together to address and overcome any barriers which are limiting the effective use of GESPC.