



# ENERGY SERVICES COALITION

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

## State Success - Alabama

Alabama's Department of Economic and Community Affairs, the state's energy office, started an ESC chapter along with interested ESCOs and worked through the chapter as an education/outreach arm of the office. The chapter's third annual conference demonstrates its success, where 175 people (mostly facility managers and decision-makers) gathered to learn more about energy performance contracting at the *Alabama Energy and Renewable Energy Conference*. Larry Knox, Energy Management Engineer with the Energy Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs said: "State agencies and departments have been challenged to reduce their energy consumption by 20% by 2010. Since most agencies do not have money to invest in their facilities, performance contracting is a great option. Many agencies have significant deferred maintenance with budget problems getting worse. Again, performance contracting can provide the answer, and 26 projects have been completed that total over \$77 million and another \$20 million in projects are anticipated for 2009."

Knox is so committed to leveraging ESC chapter resources that he gathered neighboring state representatives together for a peer exchange prior to the conference, suggesting that they could achieve the same success by starting an ESC chapter in their states. Representatives from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida all said "lots will happen" as a result of this close-up view of how a chapter can host a successful conference.

**2009**