

High Building Energy Performers are benchmarked buildings showing high performance in 2015. Challenge Leaders have committed to the Building Energy Challenge, and those with the greatest progress are recognized. Two Individual finalists for Most Valuable Operator are highlighted for their outstanding work; the winner of which will be revealed at the ceremony.

High Building Energy Performance	Business		To serve their patients, Shriners Hospital for Children – Twin Cities focuses on keeping costs in check – which includes controlling energy costs by saving energy. Improvements in lighting technology and reductions in cost made lighting a great choice to find savings. Recently, high pressure sodium and metal halide lamps were switched out for LEDs in the parking ramp, and on top of that, the new LEDs are controlled by motion sensors. After rebates from Xcel Energy, the simple payback on that project was less than a year. Further LED projects in the lobby and elevator led to noticeably brighter space and the removal of an expensive and hot transformer, respectively. As a result, fans to cool the elevators must run less often. The noticeable electric savings in the past year from the switch to LED are providing more motivation for the next project: replacing T-8s in 2'x2' fixtures with LEDs.
	Community		Lake Harriet Community School's Lower Campus is a case where preventative maintenance, proactive repair, and attentive commissioning in conjunction with a new building addition have led to a steep decline in energy use intensity. Retuning burners, replacing failed steam valve EP transducers, installing new summer boiler condensate piping to prevent boiler cycling have helped improve efficiency. Building management has also focused on no-cost/low cost measures such as refining schedules, temperature set points, and further improvements to the building automation system. Through this work, repair service calls have dropped, indoor air quality has improved, and there has been a reduction in comfort service calls for spaces being too warm or too cold.
	Hospitality		Days Hotel is an excellent example of how attentiveness can drive efficiency and result in an impressively low EUI of 57 kbtu/sqft. Strong leadership actively engages 25 out of the 50 staff in the hotel on energy saving strategies. From housekeeping to building maintenance, staff are encouraged to be on the lookout for energy being wasted when spaces are unoccupied. For instance, it is common practice in the winter for heat to be turned down soon after checkouts to conserve energy. By developing a company culture around energy and water savings, they see it helping all of us - operating costs are kept in check, hotel prices are maintained at reasonable rates, and energy emissions are reduced.
Challenge Leaders	Greatest EUI Reduction		Calhoun Square, an urban shopping center managed by The Ackerberg, Group, has seen a significant reduction in weather normalized EUI due in large part to lighting retrofits. The large parking ramp on site lit 24/7 was an initial target for LED retrofits. This was followed by LED conversions in common areas. As a result of these projects, Nicole LaVere of Ackerberg says, 'we have noticed cost saving on all of our electrical. We have also noticed that our public elevator is cooler due to the LED lighting.' Overall, they see several benefits from energy efficiency including cost savings, environmental impact reductions, and a decrease tenant CAM costs. Ackerberg is working with tenants, the Lake Street Council, and the MN Chamber of Commerce on additional energy saving projects within each space. Other future plans include replacing rooftop HVAC units with smaller, more efficient units.
	Greatest Greenhouse Gas Reduction		At the Royalston Maintenance Facility, a City of Minneapolis property located in the North Loop, the facilities management team is encouraged that their commitment to sound operational practices is paying off. Citywide policies on building scheduling and temperature set points have led to a drop in weather normalized energy use intensity along with a large reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity generation from solar PV panels on the roof also helps minimize the building's emissions footprint.
Individual	Most Valuable Operator Finalists		John Hintze, with McGough Facility Management, has been vital asset to the continued operations and maintenance of the Butler Square Building for the past six years. John was especially instrumental in the LEED silver certification of his 100 year-old facility and in the building earning an ENERGY STAR score of 94, both in 2015. His team commends him on his knowledge, the ownership and pride he takes in his work, and the level of communication to the management team, vendors, security, cleaners and tenants he brings to each project. Todd Snyder, a senior engineer at Marquette Plaza with Base Management, is an exemplary building operator for his commitment to pushing the envelope on the performance of his facility. He was heavily involved in the building achieving LEED platinum status in 2011, and his work has been crucial to the building's recertification in 2016. Todd's active monitoring of daily building energy use has also helped Marquette Plaza maintain its ENERGY STAR score of 95. His colleagues praise his dedication and his wisdom in building maintenance.