

State Government To Continue Driving Greener Buildings

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California has long been recognized as a worldwide leader in environmental protection, energy efficiency and the fight against climate change. This commitment to sustainability also applies to California's state government operations. At the direction of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., the California Department of General Services has been charged with leading the state's green building efforts.

To date, approximately 140 state-owned and leased buildings have achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. That number will continue to multiply over the next decade.

Many state agencies are also installing solar power at their facilities via an innovative power purchase agreement program managed by DGS. Under the agreements, the solar provider installs solar power systems using third-party financing and then sells the renewable electricity generated by the solar panels at a competitive cost to the host facility. Wind power is also becoming an option.

In addition, Governor Brown has directed that all new state buildings and major building renovations beginning design after 2025 be constructed as zero net energy facilities: buildings designed to produce as much energy as they consume in a year. DGS is leading the effort to meet that goal.

