

Tampa Bay Business Journal - March 25, 2010
[/tampabay.com/stories/2010/03/22/daily41.html](http://tampabay.com/stories/2010/03/22/daily41.html)



Thursday, March 25, 2010

Lakeland makes EPA top-rated list for Energy Star buildings

Tampa Bay Business Journal

Lakeland is the smallest city in the nation to make the federal government's list of cities with the most energy-efficient buildings.

In the second annual ranking by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of metropolitan areas, Lakeland is seventh of the top 25 cities list released March 24. The city has 120 Energy Star rated buildings with 11.5 million square feet of space.

At the top is Los Angeles with 293 Energy Star buildings followed by Washington with 204 buildings, San Francisco with 173 buildings, Denver with 136 buildings and Chicago with 134 buildings.

The only other Florida city on the list is Miami, ranked 19th with 54 Energy Star buildings.

Energy Star is a **government-backed program** that helps businesses and individuals with energy efficiency. To earn an Energy Star rating, buildings must meet strict energy performance standards set by EPA. To qualify for the rating, a building must score in the top 25 percent based on EPA's National Energy Performance Rating System.

The Energy Star buildings in Lakeland result in \$8.3 million in annual energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 6,300 houses, according to the EPA.

Energy use in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for nearly half of all energy consumption in the United States at a cost of more than \$200 billion annually, more than any other sector of the economy. Commercial and industrial facilities also are responsible for nearly half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.