

## Energy Excellence Program

### *Bankable savings over time + industry recognition*

Managing energy usage is a high priority for temperature-controlled warehouse operators: to *control costs*—energy is the second highest operating cost behind labor in the cold chain industry—but also to meet industry demands for *increased sustainability impact*.

GCCA's Energy Excellence Recognition Program (EERP) helps you measure and improve energy efficiency at each of your facilities using qualitative and quantitative assessment tools.

The EERP is also a tool you can use to communicate your facility's progress in meeting sustainability objectives to your customers, allowing you to be a better partner in overall cold chain sustainability.

### It's Easy

- 1 – Complete the application
- 2 – Enter energy data into online portal
- 3 – Complete energy self-assessment
- 4 – Receive recognition for the award level achieved
- 5 – Renew annually

### Participants

Over 60 cold storage facilities have attained an Energy Excellence level of Bronze or above, including:

- Americold Logistics
- Congebec Logistics
- Hanson Logistics
- Merchandise Warehouse
- Newport Cold Storage

### Results

Participants are able to...

- Identify and change energy usage behaviors
- Conduct a gap analysis to set goals and chart a course
- Improve energy efficiency
- Bank savings over time
- Access resources and templates
- Effectively communicate their sustainability efforts to customers, suppliers

As the world's largest operator of temperature-controlled warehouses, it is our duty to spearhead programs that promote energy efficiency while at the same time, drive sustainability and cost-savings throughout the entire supply chain.

We're proud of the achievements we've already made at our 45 gold-level Americold facilities and we remain committed to the mission of energy excellence in the cold chain.

Ted Royals  
Manager of Energy,  
Americold Logistics

### For More Information

Visit [www.gcca.org/energyexcellence](http://www.gcca.org/energyexcellence)  
Contact: [energy@gcca.org](mailto:energy@gcca.org) | +1 703 373 4300

## GCCA Core Partners

# How the Program Works

There is a qualitative as well as a quantitative component to the Energy Excellence Program.

## Qualitative

On the qualitative side, GCCA's program utilizes the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance model in its 111-question Energy Management Assessment (EMA). The use of progressive questioning minimizes the time needed for assessments when companies have programs at different points in maturity and complexity. You don't have to spend time on questions that do not yet apply. You'll be asked a series of questions across 12 different modules; it is required to take the EMA annually at the time of application or re-application to maintain participation:

1. Management commitment
2. Resources (human and financial)
3. Energy review and analysis
4. Energy KPIs
5. Action plans
6. Operations and maintenance
7. Monitoring and analysis
8. Employee engagement
9. Reporting, review and reassessment
10. Procurement and design
11. Documentation and records
12. Energy management system audits

You'll answer questions that become progressively more detailed and specific in each module, moving on to the next step if all answers in each section are positive:

- Verbal support for energy management
- Written commitment to improve energy performance
- Written energy policy
- Regular (annual) policy review
- Commitment to utilize energy-efficient technologies, products, or services
- Policy shared at all levels within facility
- Top management at the facility is committed to the policy
- Senior management performance evaluations tied to energy
- Senior management communicates about energy performance
- Senior management at the site has committed to long-term goals

Once these assessments are complete, a gap analysis by module is presented to you so you have a recommended road map for improving energy performance.

## Quantitative

You'll also complete a *quantitative* assessment to determine the percentage of improvement in energy efficiency over time. Data captured includes energy use, throughput, facility utilization, and weather. You'll select a baseline year to enter data such as energy consumption per month (kWh) and type of refrigerated space (refrigerated, static freezer, blast freezer) that will be used to establish year-over-year energy use reduction. Regression analysis then is used to normalize variation over time to arrive at true energy efficiency over time.

# Oversight, Verification and Auditing

**Oversight.** GCCA's Energy Excellence program is governed by an Oversight Committee (OC) consisting of Energy Efficiency Recognition Program (EERP) stakeholders whose responsibility is to develop and maintain a valid, legally defensible, and credible awards program in accordance with the latest approved policies and procedures; such policies and procedures shall be based upon professionally recognized principles and on the standards of accreditation organizations.

**Verification.** Each tier of the Energy Excellence Program is verified through one or more specified procedures/parties. See the table below for details.

**Audits.** A percentage of EERP applications shall be randomly selected to have their application audited. If an application is selected, the applicant will be notified to provide documentation validating required information.



# Qualification Tiers for Energy Excellence



Installing LED lighting systems, exploring solar power, and using automation or sensors to optimize the use of energy are a few ways that warehouse owners have attempted to control energy costs. While these efforts are proven to be effective, the only way to create a sustainable program to improve energy efficiency is to take a *holistic* look at the issue and create a culture of energy excellence. Using qualitative and quantitative assessment tools, operators can track facility performance over time, as well as receive progress reports with recommended next steps and links to useful resources.

Bronze Level			
Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures	Verification Method	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Bronze Level application with basic information</li> <li>Completed Energy Management Assessment (EMA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly power consumption for 12 consecutive months</li> </ul>	Self Assessment Activity through EMA & receipt of annual energy usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCCA Staff</li> </ul>
Silver Level			
Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures	Verification Method	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Silver Level application with expanded facility information</li> <li>Completed Energy Management Assessment (EMA)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum level of completion: 2 or higher</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly power consumption for 12 consecutive months or more</li> <li>Demonstration of energy tracking process                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples: Spreadsheets, KPIs, or WMS dashboard</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Self Assessment Activity through EMA & facility assessment data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCCA Staff</li> </ul>
Gold Level			
Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures	Verification Method	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Gold Level application with expanded facility information</li> <li>Completed Energy Management Assessment (EMA)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum level of completion: 2 or higher, depending on the module</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-Time energy data collection capability</li> <li>Monthly data (energy consumption, throughput &amp; ft<sup>3</sup>) for baseline year plus one (1) year or more</li> <li>Achievement of 5% energy efficiency over facility's benchmark values, normalized for changes in throughput, wet bulb, dry bulb and facility footprint (use) over time</li> </ul>	Self-assessment activity through EMA with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Assessment of data with a recommendation to the Oversight Committee for recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCCA Staff</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> Party</li> <li>OC</li> </ul>
PLATINUM LEVEL CERTIFICATION			
Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures	Verification Method	Responsible Party
3 years of sustained "Gold" status		Records verification	OC