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**CHANGE THE WORLD, START WITH ENERGY STAR®**

## Happy Earth Day!

Today marks the start of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR](#) 2009 campaign—a perfect time to thank past campaign participants for their contributions. We also want to welcome those who have recently committed to joining us in the fight against global warming and to encourage new organizations to come on board. 2009 is going to be an exciting year. Below is some of what we have in store. I hope you will join us in this important movement and that your Earth Day is filled with the promise of things to come.

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## Congratulations to Our Top Pledge Drivers

EPA thanks all the pledge drivers who worked on behalf of the Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR campaign in 2008 to encourage individuals across the country to take the [ENERGY STAR Pledge](#). Just as each pledge action is an important step in helping to fight global warming, so are the efforts of our campaign partners as they spread the word to their employees, customers, constituents, and communities across America.

In particular, EPA wants to recognize those organizations that went beyond all others in raising awareness and driving action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Below are top pledge drivers overall and by sector. Want to get inspired? [Check out their success stories.](#)

**Top Overall:** Georgia Power Company, National Association of Counties (NACo), TIAA-CREF, ComEd

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program

**Top Business:** GE, Raytheon Company, SYLVANIA, SUBWAY® Restaurant Chain, Menards

**Top Education:** Kentucky NEED Project, National Energy Education Development Project (NEED), Henderson County High School, Phillip A. Sharp Middle School, University of Michigan

**Top Energy Efficiency Program:** Georgia Power Company, ComEd, New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, Ameren Illinois Utilities, National Grid

**Top Government:** Broward County, FL; Change a Light NC; Department of Defense; Durham County, NC; Monmouth County, NJ

**Top Non-Profit:** NACo, TIAA-CREF, Climate Savers Computing Initiative, Project Porchlight, East Hanover Environmental Commission

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## What's New for 2009?

EPA is pleased to offer exciting, new opportunities for reaching an even broader audience in the fight against global warming. This year we are expanding our energy-saving actions to not only include what your audiences can do at home, but also what they can do at work and in their communities. We are expanding our outreach to include youth, ages 8-15, and their families. Through new, strategic partnerships with the [Boys and Girls Clubs of America](#) and [PTO Today](#), EPA will enable this influential tween and teen audience to join the fight against global warming and thus bring this important message back to their parents.

- ? **Boys and Girls Clubs of America:** Through EPA's partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of America, we will be developing and implementing community-based, energy efficiency service projects that can benefit everyone while helping youth learn about the value of saving energy. A total of 64 projects are planned from Earth Day 2009 to Earth Day 2010. Each of these projects offers opportunities for you to get involved, either by supporting the Club's efforts, hosting an event with the Club, or even developing a project with them. See [How You Can Get Involved](#) for more information.
- ? **PTO Today:** PTO Today serves the nation's parent-teacher organizations (PTOs), promoting and enabling parental involvement in schools. Working with EPA, PTO Today will create family-oriented, school-based "Go Green Nights" at more than 5,000 K-8 schools across the country during the 2009-2010 school year. These nights will include fun activities that parents can do with their kids to help save energy, save money, and protect the environment. Partners can get involved in Family Nights by encouraging schools in your community to host them as well as by participating in the Family Nights themselves by offering additional activities, giveaways and/or prizes, or even supplies. More information about the "Go Green Nights" will be available on the new [project page](#), so stay tuned for more ideas.

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## How You Can Get Involved in 2009

Earth Day 2009 is the perfect time for you to join—or recommit to joining—EPA in Changing the World with ENERGY STAR, one step at a time. Sign up as a pledge driver and encourage your audiences to take the [ENERGY STAR Pledge](#). By promoting the pledge, your organization can take part in an important movement, measure and promote your own energy and environmental savings, and help your community save money and do its part.

Here's how you can join as a pledge driver: Simply [register your organization online](#). You will then receive personalized Web links that collect your group's pledges and track your progress in helping individuals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using energy-efficient practices and products. For more details, contact Lisa Meck at [changetheworld@energystar.gov](mailto:changetheworld@energystar.gov).

Even if you have already joined as a pledge driver, there are more ways you can get involved in 2009. EPA's partnerships with Boys and Girls Clubs of America and PTO Today mean that we will be activating projects and Family Nights across the country. If your organization is interested in seeing how it could support a project or Family Night, contact us at [changetheworld@energystar.gov](mailto:changetheworld@energystar.gov). You can also check out our new [projects page](#) throughout the year to see where we might have planned activities.

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## Participate with an ENERGY STAR Event Near You

For the second year in a row, the Change the World campaign is [hitting the road](#) to help Americans become more energy efficient at home, at work, and in their communities. Just like last year, EPA is partnering with organizations around the country to host events featuring a custom-built interactive exhibit modeled after an energy-efficient home that will show you examples of the many ways you can become more energy efficient. This year, EPA is planning for four events in the fall and two to four additional events in the spring. Each event will feature the accomplishments of a community Boys and Girls Club project or other youth service project, and teach other kids how they can get involved.

EPA will have our first four sponsors selected soon, so stay tuned for more information on where we will visit and how your organization can get involved.

For more information, or to find out how you get can involved in the campaign, e-mail [changetheworld@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:changetheworld@cadmusgroup.com).

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Products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy.  
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