

CONNECTICUT GreenGuide

SPRING 2015

100-YEAR OUTLOOK

Doosan plans to
succeed in fuel cells
where UTC failed

The New
CT Commute

ECOMPANY

W. Hartford firm
runs energy
marathon

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HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL





Marathon Energy

John A. Lahtinen

Legrand has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and entire days trying to reduce its environmental impact, but last October, the building systems manufacturer decided a marathon was in order.

As part of its participation with the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge, Legrand devised and unveiled an Energy Marathon, a 26.2-day competition to reduce energy consumption across Legrand North America sites.

"It's the kind of creative solution we love to see from our partners, and a great demonstration of how people power, or changing behavior, can have just as big of an impact as equipment upgrades on lowering

HEADQUARTERS: West Hartford

YEAR FOUNDED: 1984
(first U.S. location)

EMPLOYEES: 30,000 worldwide

WEBSITE: www.legrand.us.

INFO: In addition to improving its energy performance, Legrand has set long-term goals to significantly reduce its water consumption and to totally eliminate its waste to landfills.

◀ Legrand has 30,000 employees worldwide and generates \$5.8 billion in revenue.

▶ energy use and greenhouse gas emissions," said Maria Vargas, the Energy Department's director of the Better Buildings Challenge.

The marathon was created in part due to the success of Legrand's own Power Down Day held in November 2012, which challenged employees across all sites to reduce energy consumption by as much as possible in a single day.

"The results were pretty dramatic and the competition created quite a buzz across the company," said Susan Rochford, vice president for energy efficiency, sustainability and public policy for Legrand North America. "We had fun, we'd raised awareness, and we saved energy. But a one-off event is not sufficient if the goal is to achieve lasting energy behavior change."

For the marathon, each Legrand site captured a baseline reading of electricity consumption on the same day and same time last September from which the company could measure energy savings from Oct. 1-27. The winning site reduced energy consumption by 63 percent and the company overall reduced energy consumption by 15.5 percent and saved \$47,000 in energy expenses.

"Legrand is sharing lessons learned from its experience with the marathon so that other companies can host similar events," Vargas said.

Since 2011, Legrand has participated in the Better Buildings Challenge, an initiative launched by President Barack Obama that supports a goal of doubling American energy productivity by the year 2030 while at the same time motivating corporate and public sector leaders to save energy.

Legrand committed 14 sites to the challenge, pledging to reduce its energy intensity by 25 percent in 10 years. By the third year at the end of 2013, the company already had reduced its intensity 32 percent compared to the baseline set in 2009, said Rochford.

Because of that early success, the company setting a further goal of another 25 percent intensity reduction by 2022. ●

Green Fact:

Legrand saved enough energy during its Energy Marathon to drive the Chevy Volt strictly on battery to the Moon and back 3.3 times, or enough to drive around the Earth 63.8 times.

SOURCE: LEGRAND

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