



For Immediate Release

Contact: Doña Canales-Higgins
(202) 343-9138
canales-higgins.dona@epa.gov

Gillette Business Wins National Award for Exemplary Energy Savings

Washington, DC—One of Gillette, WY's own is among an elite group of small businesses across the country that is being honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its outstanding achievements in energy efficiency. **Advocacy for Visual Arts, Inc. (AVA)** has won the **2003 Energy Star® for Small Business Award** for its success in reducing energy use and educating staff.

Advocacy for Visual Arts, Inc. (AVA) worked with local volunteers and craftsmen to upgrade the building's lighting system with efficient T-5 and T-8 fluorescent lamps and electronic ballasts. They also installed dimming controls on other fixtures to allow the staff to take advantage of the building's abundant natural light. New heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment was also installed, which includes variable speed drives and is controlled by programmable thermostats. They improved their building's shell by installing an insulated roof, double-paned low emissivity windows, and wall insulation. They also tightened the doors and entryways with caulk and weather-stripping to reduce air infiltration. In an effort to maintain energy-efficiency, AVA also provides each new instructor a tour of the building to teach them about its energy-efficient features and how to use and maintain them. These operation and maintenance responsibilities are implemented with a checklist. Their efforts to help protect the environment, as well as AVA's budget, is saving over 15,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, and preventing more than 19,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, when compared to the national average of similar unimproved buildings.

All **Energy Star for Small Business Award** applicants were judged on comprehensiveness of upgrades, cost savings per square foot, creativity, and innovation. Jerry Lawson, national manager of Energy Star for Small Business, said "We were impressed with the quality of applications meeting more rigorous criteria this year. For the first time, we required that applicants submit utility usage data for both one year prior to the upgrades and one year afterwards," Lawson added.

Energy Star for Small Business Award applications are accepted throughout the year. The application is available online at www.energystar.gov/smallbiz. Deadline for submitting applications is Earth Day, April 22.

More than 8,000 companies participate in Energy Star for Small Business and more than 1,000 organizations participate in Energy Star for Congregations. Both are voluntary programs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that help building owners and operators cut energy waste and prevent pollution through energy efficiency. For information call 1-888-STAR YES or visit www.energystar.gov/smallbiz.

Media kits and individual success stories are available online at www.epa.gov/smallbiz or call (202) 343-9138.

###