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Allen & Hoshall beefs up business through energy reduction contracts

Memphis Business Journal - by Michael Sheffield

A \$19 million project at **Redstone Arsenal** in Huntsville, Ala., is the latest energy conservation project for Memphis-based **Allen & Hoshall**, which has been working on a similar one at Fort Campbell, Ky., for the last five years.

The project at Redstone is being done through a partnership with the **Tennessee Valley Authority**, and requires Allen & Hoshall to evaluate 74 buildings at the base to meet energy reduction standards set by the U.S. government.

The evaluation covers everything from upgrading windows and doors with improved insulation to installing a geothermal HVAC system.

At Fort Campbell, the \$40 million project includes evaluating 1,100 buildings on the U.S. Army base for opportunities for the integration of renewable energy sources.

The goal for all of the projects is to reduce energy usage at military installations by 30% by 2014, says Bruce Fisackerley, who is running the project for Allen & Hoshall. He says the firm has been involved in similar projects over the last 25 years, but the importance of energy conservation and alternative fuels is coming to the forefront more now.

"We're seeing a substantial increase in interest, especially in renewable energy," Fisackerley says. "The government is encouraging up to 15% of energy sources to be renewable like hydro and wind power and biomass."

The company is also working on a project in Missouri that will use waste wood from manufacturers to generate heat and hot water at state correctional facilities. If the process is successful, it could be integrated onto college campuses.

"We've been involved in quite a few boiler facilities in Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Canada," Fisackerley says.

Another project Allen & Hoshall recently completed at David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., involved utilizing the park's lake as an energy source. A heat exchanger was installed at the bottom of the lake to produce energy that is used around the park. The exchanger has no effect on the ecosystem, he says.

Bill Bauer, program director for building energy management for the state of Tennessee, says the project was started to reduce energy consumption at a restaurant near the lake and address some equipment upgrade needs.

"Instead of replacing components with what they had before, they went the geothermal route," Bauer says.



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Allen & Hoshall installed a heat exchanger at the bottom of a lake at David Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

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The \$1.3 million project was completed last fall. Bauer says it's too early to determine the savings in energy costs, a conservation project at the Andrew Jackson and Rachel Jackson buildings in Nashville has saved \$800,000 in utility costs for the state. "We're interested to see how (the lake) will perform over the next year," Bauer says. "So far, we've gotten great feedback from it."

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