

# Better Buildings, Better Plants

## AMO Energy Resources Center Security

The Better Buildings, Better Plants program is sponsored by the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) within the Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The program reinforces energy efficiency as a profitable business model and promotes adoption of energy efficiency technologies.

The Energy Resources Center (eCenter) was created to provide a secure environment wherein Program Partners, Potential Partners and DOE representatives working with the Better Buildings, Better Plants program can locate, share, and save data.

### What is the Purpose of the eCenter?

The eCenter provides a self-paced approach to the process of energy management and a secure environment to share and save data. It accommodates users who are:

- Seeking (or interested in seeking) ISO 50001 certification
- Looking for resources to assist with continuous improvement in energy management
- In (or interested in) Superior Energy Performance (SEP)
- In (or interested in) the Better Buildings, Better Plants Program

### How is information secured?

- Data saved can only be accessed through the web-based, password protected SharePoint eCenter.
- Data is protected by a secure (https) connection.
- Data collected on the eCenter by tools and uploaded files is stored in a secure database.
- eCenter security is configured using proven commercial products including Microsoft SharePoint and Active Directory.
- Servers are hosted in a firewall protected, Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) compliant data center.

### Security Features

#### **eCenter is configured using SharePoint:**

SharePoint's security features include encryption which is utilized with several of the authentication methods. This protects the way the servers interact with each other as well as the way the users interact with the server.

#### **HTTPS connection:**

This combines the normal http connection with the SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) which encrypts communication that takes place on the eCenter.

#### **Active Directory:**

Active Directory's security features are responsible for authorizing and authenticating users upon signing in to the eCenter.

#### **FIPS Compliance:**

The Energy Resources Center meets FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) Compliance which mandates standards for implementing cryptographic software.