

Marine Corps taking energy action

It allows convoys to navigate across rugged desert terrain. It heats the shower that provides relief after tough training. It lights the hangars, offices, and warehouses Marines work in, and the barracks and homes they live in.

While often overlooked, energy is a critical element in every aspect of a Marine's life, providing the power to both perform daily routines and to achieve the mission during forward operations. At the same time, dependence on energy is a vulnerability – if the supply is compromised, Marines must be able to perform with limited resources, and ever-fluctuating costs put pressure on the budget. These mission-critical factors, in combination with Executive Order 13693's (2015) mandate to decrease energy use intensity (EUI – the amount of energy used per square foot of facilities) by 25 percent by 2025, or 2.5 percent annually, have driven a need for action on energy.

October is [Energy Action Month](#), designated by presidential proclamation to encourage energy-saving actions. This month, the Corps is ensuring the Energy Ethos – or the shared vision that the efficient use of energy resources is a critical component of mission readiness – takes center stage. The guiding principles of discipline and efficiency taught in training and used in combat and logistics also apply to the use of resources such as electricity, fuel, and water – both on base and on the battlefield. Marine Corps leaders are now encouraging all Marines to change their attitudes and behaviors toward energy use, and focus on reducing energy waste through efficient habits.

"Last FY, we spent \$226M on installation energy. With our bases continuing to face fiscal constraints, we need to innovate to reduce energy use and waste - not just in technology, but with our behavior," said Major General John Broadmeadow, Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM). "Our installations exist to support deployed Marines and the warfighter, so we should be treating energy the same way on base as we do in the field - as a valuable, limited resource."

There are numerous opportunities for Marines to reduce individual energy consumption on base and in the battlefield:

- Turning off lights when leaving a room or tent
- Using natural light or small task lights in place of large overhead lights
- Powering down computer monitors when not in use
- Unplugging unused appliances, chargers, and electronics
- Reporting any incidents of energy or water waste (leaks, malfunctioning equipment, etc.)

[Unit Energy Managers \(UEMs\)](#) act as the point of contact in units across Marine Corps installations during Energy Action Month to answer any questions related to energy efficiency. They conduct walkthroughs of facilities, distribute tip sheets, and engage with leadership to encourage energy awareness in their units.

For years, technologies and investments have been used to optimize energy efficiency – on installations through renewable energy investments and efficiency overhauls, and in the field through the Marine Corps [Expeditionary Energy Office's](#) (E2O) energy efficient technologies, such as Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System (GREENS) (man-transportable solar power generation), and increased efficiency in tactical vehicles. Both MCICOM and E2O have recognized, however, that technology alone cannot make the Marine Corps energy-secure – enhanced awareness, an Energy Ethos, is essential.

"On the battlefield we are focused on making sure Marines have the energy they need when availability to fuel and electrical power is constrained by the proliferation of Anti-Access, Area Denial technology," said Col. Brian Magnuson, director of E2O. "That requires a diversified approach, and individual Marine behavior is critical to managing our energy vulnerability in order to ensure mission success in a more distributed environment." The

integration of technology and behavior helps extend the operational reach of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), enabling Marines to go further and stay out longer on the battlefield.

“Every effort toward conserving energy and water will make a significant impact toward mission effectiveness and allow us to reallocate resources toward other priorities,” said Sergeant Major Anthony Cruz of MCICOM. “In the 21st Century energy is considered a critical element on base and in combat. It's the responsibility of each Marine to [do his or her part](#) – not just in October but year round.”

For more information on the Marine Corps Energy Program, visit the MCICOM Facility Operations and Energy (GF-1) website at <http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Units/GF-Facilities/GF-1-Energy/>.