



Waste Watcher

Fall 2003



Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators

General Updates

- Weather – according to NOAA, the West will have above normal temperatures and below average precipitation.
- Natural Gas Rates – natural gas prices are going up on October 1, 2003 for all NW providers. Most increases should be 4-7%, but several utilities have filed rate increases with the PUC as high as 17%. This has to do with dwindling supply and concerns to meet future demand. Talk to your account rep for more information.

DAS Buildings Savings Update

The data is always two months behind due to billing cycles. All bills are compared to the calendar year 2000 as a baseline. The goal and OAR requirement is a 10% reduction in electricity and natural gas usage. The data is not adjusted for weather or any other factors. Electricity is reported in kilowatt-hours (kWh) and gas in therms; the % column is combined electric and gas savings in Btu's compared to the year 2000 usage; and the cost is combined electric and gas. This list does not include all DAS-owned or operated buildings. Detailed graphs are available upon request. *Data is now year-to-date, rather than monthly.*

January–July 2003 data are as follows:

	Electricity	Gas	%	Cost
• Agriculture*:	505,200	12,602	N/A%	\$ 47,602
• Albina:	281,588	7,917	-25%	26,358
• Archives:	711,700	27,741	-16%	70,354
• Blind Comm:	171,780	5,060	-13%	17,501
• Burns:	233,440	---	+1%	15,764
• Central Pt:	296,120	10,154	-13%	24,534
• Commerce:	190,080	9,306	-19%	21,856
• Employ:	2,559,090	---	-13%	160,771
• Executive:	481,420	5,425	-30%	40,520
• Gen Svcs:	442,480	6,227	-22%	39,887
• GS Annex:	15,879	1,245	+6%	2,397
• Hum Svcs:	1,997,630	26,446	-30%	158,818
• Justice:	645,299	10,309	-24%	62,196
• L&I:	1,604,884	21,658	-24%	127,054
• Library*:	321,604	6,923	52%	27,488
• OPSOB:	136,560	927	-24%	10,137
• NPSOB:	242,610	5,940	-35%	21,672
• Port SOB:	2,089,600	12,913	-5%	120,247
• Port MP:	147,582	3,094	-36%	13,319
• Print Plant:	1,018,100	4,353	-15%	72,478
• Prop Dist:	167,548	9,538	-25%	17,998
• Pub Svc:	1,215,2998	1,336	-20%	84,444
• Public Utility:	750,000	1,184	-25%	54,849
• Real Estate:	113,220	4,305	-23%	12,055
• Revenue:	4,359,487	32,630	-22%	288,967
• Salem MP*:	262,791	10,826	N/A%	27,267

TOTAL DAS: 24,373,591 272,661 -20%\$1,817,830

Note: DAS is investigating factors for buildings not meeting 10% goal.

*Baseline adjusted.

Moving to Heating in DAS Buildings

Almost as fast as it arrived, summer is over again. As days get shorter and the temperature cools down, so do state buildings. Here are a few things to do to stay warm as cooler weather approaches:

- Dress for cooler weather. Dress in layers or bring an extra sweater for the cooler afternoon and evening temperatures.
- If you sit by a window, open your blinds when the sun shines directly on the window and close your blinds at night when you leave (i.e. the opposite of summer).
- Drink lots of water and fewer warm beverages. They throw off your body's natural temperature adjustment and make you prone to internal temperature extremes.



Computer Recycling

Many state agencies have become more savvy in their computer salvaging. They are saving money and disassembling old computers and using the parts to repair other computers. However, all this internal computer recycling has created a problem.

The profitable parts of a used computer are often the parts that are salvaged first. So, what's left are the fairly unusable, sometimes hazardous, materials. The State Property Distribution Center (Surplus) was looking to disallow these computer parts. No one wanted to buy them, so it wasn't penciling out to handle the material. That left many agencies holding pallets of computer parts and nowhere to take them.

DEQ was able to renew an interest in working with STRuT, a local company that puts technology back into the schools. Also, DAS was able to add computers, monitors, and TV's onto the existing contract with Onyx (the vendor for fluorescent tube and battery recycling). Now agencies have an official process.

First, agencies need to determine if the computer works at all. If it does, it goes to Surplus. If not, they can either send the non-functioning equipment to STRuT or to Onyx for recycling. Both the latter services do have a charge. Agencies can contact Surplus or DAS if they have any questions.



North Mall Office Building opens in Salem

The State's first, official green building to be constructed according to the sustainable buildings' policy is scheduled to be completed on August 30. The tenants are the Oregon Parks Department, Housing and Community Services Department, and Water Resources Department. They are scheduled to start moving in the first week of September.

For more information, call DAS Facilities or visit the website at <http://www.facilities.das.state.or.us/webproject.htm>

Compact Fluorescents...the whole story

Compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) are a great way to save money on electricity in our homes and offices. However, after the initial buying frenzy in 2001, they've gotten a bad rap lately. Here are a few answers to common CFL questions:

Disposal – Yes, there is mercury in them. However, it's in such small quantities that it poses no disposal problem. For areas like Salem, where our trash is incinerated, there is no issue of contamination. In other areas, the amount of mercury in them is small enough and the landfills are protected well enough with leaching systems that they can be thrown in our garbages. If you're uncomfortable with throwing them away, they can always be held and taken to a household hazardous waste collection event in your area. In DAS buildings, they are collected by a hauler and recycled with our 4-8' fluorescent light tubes.

Short Life – they're not lasting as long as the package said – it says 6 years and they're already burning out in 2 years. Most fluorescent lights need to be on at least 2 hours at a time, and that's how it's measured for the packaging. If the CFL is in a place where it is turned on and off, like a closet, it won't last as long as a location where it stays on 2-4 hours at once. In some areas, it's still more economical to use an incandescent light.

Fixtures – just like incandescent lights, CFL's now come in lots of shapes and sizes: small, flood, 3-way lamps, etc. However, it's important to ensure the CFL isn't placed in a completely enclosed fixture, because they burn slightly hotter and it can reduce the life or cause a fire hazard.



NEW PROJECTS

Beginning July 1, 2003 (see the March 2003 Waste Watcher <http://www.facilities.das.state.or.us/ww032003a.pdf> for more info), state agencies are accountable for demonstrating a 10% energy savings in electricity and heating fuel usage over the year 2000. This requirement was developed into law during the 2001 Legislative Session. The savings will be tracked by DAS and reported to Oregon Department of Energy for analysis and enforcement.

Agencies have been keeping track of their usage since 2001 to prepare for this law, but the first statewide report comparing the July-December 2003 data should be available by March 1, 2004.

State Agency Update

Here's an update of great projects in resource conservation and sustainability that Oregon agencies are working on.

The Department of Human Services has an amazing success story that we had to include. The Human Services Building is a large 5-story, 250,000 square foot building on the Capitol Mall in Salem. They have about 1,200 employees that work in the building. Shortly after the energy conservation efforts began in 2001, DAS Facilities conducted a night energy audit of the building. They found many space heaters, some left on, hundreds of computers and monitors left on, task lights on, etc., all totaled about \$50,000 in annual expense that was being wasted at night when no one was working. There were also many messy cubicles with old food and drink that were sanitary concerns.

In mid-August 2003, DAS and DHS Facilities conducted another night audit. The difference from 2001 was remarkable! Only a handful of space heaters were found, most monitors and computers were off, blinds were closed, misc. plug loads such as speakers, label makers, and radios were off, most fans were the authorized size, and the building was very clean. The building has a 150% decrease in wasted energy usage and cost. That's fantastic! A big bravo to the DHS Facilities staff and a bravo to everyone who works in the building! Good job!



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