



Waste Watcher

Fall 2004

Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators



General Updates

- Weather – according to NOAA, September should have average temperatures and below average rainfall. <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/Portland/afd?SLCPMD30D>
- Natural Gas Rates – NW Natural is filing for a rate increase with the PUC. This increase could be in the neighborhood of 15%.

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 2004 data are as follows:

	Billed Electricity	Billed Gas	Billed Cost	% change
• Agriculture:	621,440	12,868	\$ 55,486	-28%
• Albina:	278,888	9,206	26,000	-20%
• Archives:	714,200	27,942	68,831	-16%
• Blind Comm:	176,980	4,263	17,361	-18%
• Burns:	229,800	---	15,611	-0%
• Central Pt:	307,160	11,913	27,113	-5%
• Employ:	2,686,999	---	164,602	-9%
• Executive:	508,460	6,878	43,469	-22%
• Gen Svcs:	372,560	6,859	34,370	-29%
• GS Annex:	17,610	852	2,304	-14%
• Hum Svcs:	2,054,281	28,119	161,166	-27%
• Justice:	767,268	12,189	67,461	-7%
• L&I:	1,664,021	24,381	132,136	-21%
• Library*:	321,410	6,879	27,476	-15%
• NMOB^:	829,200	14,634	70,009	N/A
• NPSOB:	260,800	9,259	24,782	-17%
• OPSOB:	145,840	1,432	10,387	-12%
• Port SOB:	2,023,200	8,379	112,846	-12%
• Port MP:	132,488	3,232	12,846	-39%
• Print Plant:	1,090,300	6,464	77,987	-6%
• Prop Dist:	178,508	12,854	21,965	-7%
• Pub Svc:	1,332,810	3,106	91,532	-18%
• Pub Utility:	786,200	1,190	57,531	-22%
• Real Estate:	104,820	5,445	12,968	-16%
• Revenue:	4,802,015	45,567	315,996	-10%
• Salem MP:	265,671	8,983	26,193	-15%
TOTAL DAS:	26,304,208	319,723	\$1,966,516	-14%

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

* Baseline adjusted.

^Usage is from 9/03 when bldg opened; no baseline developed yet.



New Contract for Hazardous Material Recycling/Collection

The State Procurement Office at DAS recently negotiated a contract with a new vendor for recycling hazardous materials, such as batteries, computers, monitors, televisions, VCR's, etc. The vendor is now a more local company out of Seattle called EcoLights NW.

- There are two important changes to note with regard to the new Price Agreement:
- EcoLights NW will provide, at no cost to the Authorized Purchaser, all materials necessary to safely handle and store all items for collection covered under this Price Agreement.
 - There is no minimum pick up requirements associated with this Price Agreement. However, Authorized Purchasers are encouraged to accumulate material to a reasonable level prior to requesting collection from the Contractor.

The contract is available for download from the VIP system. Please click: <http://procurement.oregon.gov/DAS/PFSS/SPO/vip-menu.shtml>.

Questions??

- Michelle Minstrell, EcoLights NW 1-888-214-2327 x3304
- Bob Baxter, DAS State Procurement Office 503-378-4665 or email robert.a.baxter@state.or.us.

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 – this brings in warm air to help heat the building during the day and keeps out the cold air at night).
- ☉ 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.





Bottled Water Woes

Global spending on bottled water has grown rapidly, to some \$35 billion per year. Drivers include its convenience, water shortages, and in some parts of the world, serious concerns over water quality. Bottled water's growing popularity is sparking concerns over increased plastic bottle trash, its resource intensive nature as compared to public drinking water or piped systems, and the strain it puts on certain water supplies, among other things.



Contrary to popular consumer belief, bottled water is not necessarily safer or healthier than tap water; nor is bottled spring water better than water from other sources. Bottled water may also pose a threat from toxic chemicals that have leached into the water from the plastic. Individuals can avoid plastics leaching by nursing rather than bottle feeding infants, by using and reusing containers made of glass, metal, or leadfree ceramics, or by taking water from the tap. When it's necessary to use plastics, it's important to remember that plastics are not all created equal.

Fortunately, consumers can view numeric codes on plastic products. Plastics coded as #7 polycarbonate, #3 polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and #6 polystyrene should be avoided. Better are #1 PETE/PET or #2 HDPE, the plastic found in most 1, 1.5, 2 liter and smaller beverage bottles. Still, an Italian study found that some chemicals were etched after 9 months of storage in a PETE bottle. Plastics shown not to leach any carcinogens or endocrine disruptors are #2 HDPE, #4 LDPE, and #5 polypropylene.

In a recent waste audit of several state buildings in Salem, plastic bottles were the most common recyclable item found in the garbage. However, most state buildings in Salem and Portland can recycle them through our contract with Garten Services. Look for red containers in your break room or talk to your building manager to set up the program. Please call Elin Shepard, Statewide Resource Coordinator at DAS, if you have any questions. Her number is 503.378.2865 x241.

Source: Bonnie McCullough, Marion County Master Recycler newsletter. Information from World Watch Institute (2004), WorldWatch Magazine: March/ April 2004. "Life-Cycle Studies: Bottled Water" and "GreenGuidance" Online. Internet. February 26, 2004. Available at: www.worldwatch.org/press/news/2004/02/17/

TIP OF THE MONTH

When looking for refrigerators for the office break rooms or for your home, look for the Energy Star symbol. There are now refrigerators that use no more than a 75 watt light bulb. In fact, since 1992, refrigerator energy use has dropped by 50 percent.

Source: http://www.nwenergy.org/publications/report/02_nov/rp_0211_5b.html

Other Miscellaneous Updates

Too Many Bill Fosters

There are now several Bill Fosters listed in the global email and it has caused some confusion. When sending information to the Acting Administrator for DAS Facilities, please make sure you select Bill I Foster * DAS FACL.



Holiday Energy Savings

As Fall approaches, so do several key holidays and a chance for extra energy savings. The HVAC Crew at DAS programs the computer to turn off the buildings over the weekends and on holidays. Some buildings even require manual programming every holiday. But, by taking this extra time, the building can save big on energy and water costs. If you're not in a DAS building, talk to your building manager about ensuring the system is turned off over state holidays.

Policy Revisions

DAS Facilities is in the process of revising two statewide policies. The first is the Sustainable Facilities Standards and Guidelines #125-6-010, that provides a framework for agencies in sustainable new construction, renovation, operations & maintenance, and major leases in Oregon. The second is State Energy and Water Conservation #125-6-378. This policy had a major make-over in that is now combines recycling into the former policy to create a comprehensive resource conservation guideline. Some of the temperature set points and other restrictions were also modified. Watch the DAS Facilities website for the final versions soon.



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