



Conserve-Rutherford

Where Employees Do Make a Difference

October , 2009

Volume 1, Number 1

“The cheapest energy is energy never used.”

Ctrl + Click Below to send any tips, suggestions or questions to Shane's Mail Bag...



A Thought from the County Manager

Earlier this year, Rutherford County began a new initiative to lower our annual utility costs. As the budget for the upcoming year was being formulated, it was evident that the county's belt would have to be tightened. At the same time, the State Energy Office contracted with an outside engineering firm that specializes in energy reduction to investigate energy savings in two school buildings and two county buildings. A county staff person, Shane Dotson, was named Energy Reduction Officer and assigned to participate in the building energy audits. The officer would then use these procedures in remaining county buildings. A program to reduce energy costs by 8 to 10% for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year was developed. Shane is now completing his investigations in all of our county buildings and the county is well on its way to completing the plans that were put in place for these buildings. Substantial savings were realized in several buildings immediately. Shane will continue to monitor to see that cost-saving recommendations are followed. Please continue to work with Shane on reducing your utility cost. I particularly want to thank those departments that have already vigorously started to reduce the energy bills as you will see on the report below. Please remember that money saved on energy reduction, as with other cost saving programs we have started, is critical in helping the county get through these very trying economic times while minimizing service reductions to the public.

Monthly Power Report

	KWH used	KWH used	% Change	Bill Total \$
Department	Aug. 08'	Aug. 09'		Aug. 09'
Sheriff Annex 4th street	2,507	1,402	44.08%	\$121.97
Building Inspections	4748	3108	34.54%	\$319.92
Green Hill Conv. Center	600	400	33.33%	\$142.82
EMS-Spindale	15,327	10,847	29.23%	\$825.21
County Offices	16,710	12,310	26.33%	\$858.48
Gilkey Conv. Center	800	600	25.00%	\$165.54
Golden Valley Conv. Center	400	300	25.00%	\$122.88
Oakland Conv. Center	1,185	897	24.30%	\$103.78
Bill Creek Library/EMS	19,800	16,000	19.19%	\$1,475.06
Henrietta Library	2940	2396	18.50%	\$252.59
DSS Annex	1,956	1,602	18.10%	\$175.12
Animal Shelter	7,002	5,903	15.70%	\$652.82
BOE/FM/Tran/Vet	15,328	12,940	15.58%	\$944.33
Communications	26,040	22,440	13.82%	\$1,323.53
Pearidge Conv. Center	630	564	10.48%	\$107.06
County Library	17,584	15,744	10.46%	\$1,088.51
Courthouse	62,320	56,880	8.73%	\$3,746.37
Hollis Conv. Center	447	412	7.83%	\$83.12
DSS	47,040	44,544	5.31%	\$2,888.01
Solid Waste	5,560	5,299	4.69%	\$570.79
Jail/Detention Center	81,360	78,720	3.24%	\$5,160.71
Probation	7,590	7,438	2.00%	\$529.88
Bills Creek Conv. Center	500	500	0.00%	\$149.87
Avondale Conv. Center	1,182	1,182	0.00%	\$145.84
CSI	6,480	6,498	-0.28%	\$516.81
Colfax Conv. Center	1,320	1,325	-0.38%	\$158.04
EMS-Bostic	1,604	1,624	-1.25%	\$177.08
Shiloh Conv. Center	717	730	-1.81%	\$96.79
Rutherford Center	30,320	31,440	-3.69%	\$2,171.54
*Health Department	23,920	25,440	-6.35%	\$1,918.57
Maintenance	8,495	9,372	-10.32%	\$731.47
Senior Center	40,400	46,800	-15.84%	\$3,110.83
Tourism	2,411	2,819	-16.92%	\$233.43
*Off Site Storage	1,521	3,751	146.61%	\$382.61
Totals	456,744	267,894	-10.61%	\$31,451.38

* Please note: Rutherford County Health Dept. had an ongoing construction project that had a significant effect on their bill.

Off Site Storage was not operational as a facility in August 2008. Therefore their increase is not reflective of a true overage and causes the **overall** % change from Aug. 08 to show (-).



Here we have Julie Scherzer, our Finance Director, doing her part by wearing a very trendy new design just in time for winter.

The Blue Snuggie!

Way to go Julie--she's ready for those new wintertime thermostat settings.

Remember 68° in the heating cycle and NO SPACE HEATERS. Thanks!

Tips to remember for an efficient workplace:

- Set your water heater @ 105°F
- Ensure that Heat / AC filters are cleaned or changed every 30 days to ensure efficient operation of your unit.
- For each 1° that you can change your thermostat, you can save approximately 3% of your heating portion of your energy bill.
- Utilize natural lighting whenever possible.
- Be aware of any potential problems that may exist in the office space such as water leaks, inefficient air flow from vents, drafty or leaky windows, excess lighting, unnecessary equipment, etc....

Solar power is one of the most hopeful technologies but still produces about 0.01 percent of U.S. electricity. The U.S. allocates just \$159 million for solar research per year — about what we spend in Iraq every nine hours.

-Nicholas D. Kristoff

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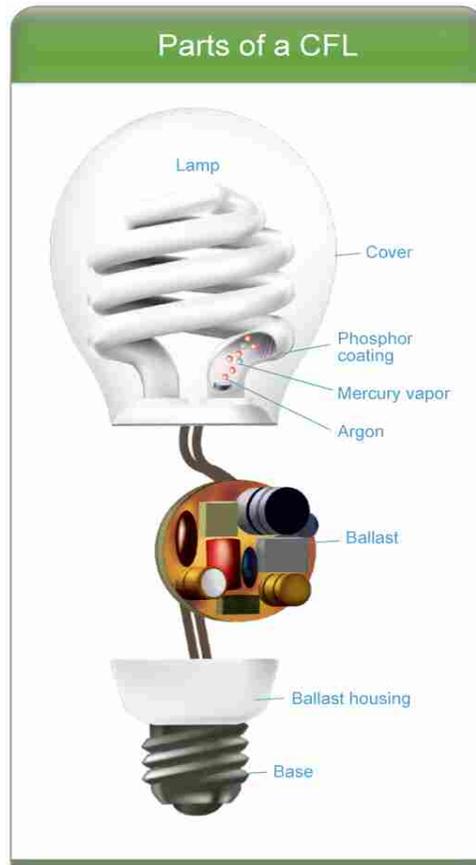
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CFL's explained

(Compact Fluorescent Lights)



CFLs produce light differently than incandescent bulbs. In an incandescent, electric current runs through a wire filament and heats the filament until it starts to glow. In a CFL, an electric current is driven through a tube containing argon and a small amount of mercury vapor. This generates invisible ultraviolet light that excites a fluorescent coating (called phosphor) on the inside of the tube, which then emits visible light.

CFLs need a little more energy when they are first turned on, but once the electricity starts moving, use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. A CFL's ballast helps "kick start" the CFL and then regulates the current once the electricity starts flowing.

Older CFLs used large and heavy magnetic ballasts that caused a buzzing noise in some bulbs. Most CFLs today — and all ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs — use electronic ballasts, which do not buzz or hum.

Energy Teams

-Organize Your Team

This starts with the department head. Next encourage your co-workers to get involved. A team approach helps ensure greater support and success, no one person is responsible for the entire program. Once you have your team in place, conduct a kickoff meeting to get things started.

-Start your program

Careful planning at your first meeting helps create momentum for your program. Identify project areas and opportunities for your building.

-Raise Awareness

This might just be the most important! Share tips and advice on how to save energy and reduce waste with your co-workers. The most important tool you have is communication. Talk about ideas. Keep all employees active in the program. This is a team effort.

-Recognize Success

Recognize the contributions of teams and individuals to reinforce the value of energy efficiency and encourage even greater improvements. Simple gestures such as a thank you and a hand shake will go a long way.

Shane Answers Your Questions:



Is it less efficient to turn fluorescent lights on and off vs. leaving them on if a room is to be vacant for only a short period?

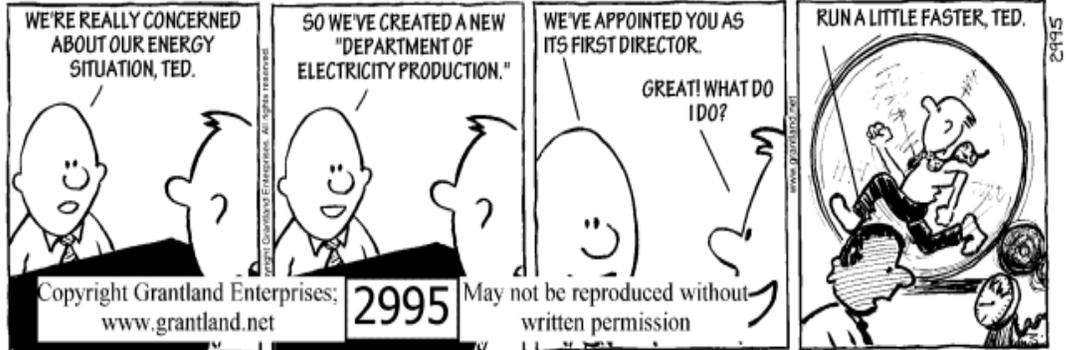
When turning fluorescent lights on, there is indeed a small spike in energy used. However, the power surge is so brief, it turns out to be insignificant in comparison to the energy saved by turning them off. The spike only equates to roughly a few seconds of normal operation.

Measuring Results

"Measurement is the first step that leads to control and eventually to improvement. If you can't measure something, you can't understand it. If you can't understand it, you can't control it. If you can't control it, you can't improve it."

H. James Harrington

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Closing Notes:

Please help use to name this Newsletter, send any reponses to Shane via the email link on the first page.

Encourage all employees to participate in our energy savings efforts....THE JOB YOU SAVE MAY BE YOURS!!!!