

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
John C. Egan, COMMISSIONER



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OGS ENERGY SAVINGS STRATEGIES YIELD AVOIDED COSTS OF \$2.3 MILLION

Procurement Officials Continue to Make Energy Consumption Part of the Purchasing Equation

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner John C. Egan today reported that the agency's energy conservation and efficiency efforts have brought about a significant reduction in energy consumed at state facilities.

At the mid-point of the 2008-09 fiscal year, statewide energy consumption is down 8.4 percent compared to the same period last year. OGS manages a portfolio of more than 50 buildings totaling more than 19.5 million square feet of office space.

"Governor Paterson directed state agencies to take aggressive steps to combat the growing fiscal crisis," said Commissioner Egan. "By working together, OGS' team of energy management professionals and agency tenants have thought creatively and made sacrifices resulting in cost avoidance of \$2.3 million."

During the summer months, building set points were adjusted, lighting in common areas was reduced, and OGS continued to pursue opportunities to incorporate the use of high-efficiency building systems to reduce the state's overall consumption.

In addition, Commissioner Egan conducted a multi-pronged outreach effort including: letters to state agency heads seeking their cooperation in effectuating energy curtailment measures; a bulletin to tenant representatives in state office buildings; conversations with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations regarding the impact on the state work force; and a meeting with OGS' local union representatives.

OGS has incorporated the use of its Web-enabled Advanced Metering (WEAM) system to systematically evaluate electricity, water and natural gas use in buildings across the state.

"The WEAM system is an energy bloodhound, providing analysts with the ability to track kilowatt hours consumed in vast complexes, such as the Empire State Plaza and the Harriman Office Campus, and remote state facilities as far away as Buffalo or the tip of Long Island," said Commissioner Egan.

(more)

During the six-month period, the Hughes State Office Building in Syracuse (Onondaga County) reduced its electricity consumption by 24.3 percent, and its natural gas use by 63.8 percent. This was accomplished, in large part, through the installation of a demand-control ventilation system that improves the 8-story building's efficiency by reducing its overall heating and cooling demands across its more than 200,148 square feet.

The Utica State Office Building has seen its electricity consumption drop by 13.5 percent, and its natural gas use reduced by 35.1 percent. In January, OGS energy management team conducted a comprehensive energy audit, which resulted in reducing daily use of the building's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems (HVAC), lowering hot water temperatures, installing motion sensors in store rooms and laundry facilities, and introducing day-time cleaning throughout the 16-story building. In addition, the building's onsite management worked closely with its tenants to stress the importance of reducing the amount of energy consumed throughout the building.

At the Duryea State Office Building in Hauppauge (Suffolk County), electricity consumption fell by 9.1 percent, and natural gas use is down by 65.4 percent.

At the 80-year-old Mahoney Building in Buffalo (Erie County), electricity consumption is down 3.3 percent, and natural gas use is down 4.4 percent. While the reduction is more modest, the gains are significant nonetheless due to the building's 1930s era heating system that currently relies on steam boilers and cast-iron radiators.

Incorporating Green Purchasing into State Computer Procurements

As the state's chief procurement agency, OGS annually administers a \$5 billion centralized contracting portfolio that includes thousands of diverse commodities ranging from recycled copy paper to green cleaning products to biofuels and electricity.

In recent years, OGS procurement professionals have made energy and environmental benefits part of the purchasing equation. As a result, state agencies, school districts and local governments are purchasing desktop and laptop computers adhering to rigorous energy and environmental criteria. These standards are established by the Green Electronics Council. The Council estimates that New York's purchase of PCs in 2007 saved more than 155 million kilowatt hours of electrical power and reduced greenhouse gases by 12,230 metric tons.

Expanding Governor Paterson's Green Procurement Goals

Building on its successful technology procurements, OGS is working jointly with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and a number of other state agencies to expand the availability of various commodities and services that comply with Governor Paterson's sustainability agenda. The roster of 36 services and commodities includes various office supplies, vehicles, construction materials, and electronic devices, and is publicly posted at <http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/ExecutiveOrder4.html>.