



ENERGY UPDATE

An update to the state of energy in the State of Oregon

October 2004



General Updates

- Weather – a weak El Nino pattern is back over the Pacific Ocean, which means above normal temperatures and wetter weather for the Pacific NW through Spring. It also means more tropical storms in the Atlantic states. <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/Portland/afd?SLCPMD90D>
- Gas Rates – NW Natural is raising gas rates from 15-18%, depending on your rate schedule, for commercial buildings effective October 1.

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–August 2004 data are as follows:

	Billed Electricity	Billed Gas	Billed Cost	% change
• Agriculture:	718,560	13,041	\$ 62,780	-29%
• Albina:	333,671	9,206	30,142	-21%
• Archives:	819,200	30,311	78,097	-15%
• Blind Comm:	207,720	4,293	19,866	-18%
• Burns:	257,960	---	17,531	-1%
• Central Pt:	366,000	12,489	30,836	-2%
• Employ:	3,111,709	---	190,403	-5%
• Executive:	589,260	6,878	49,533	-23%
• Gen Svcs:	434,720	6,859	39,115	-27%
• GS Annex:	22,450	852	2,718	-13%
• Hum Svcs:	2,420,720	28,642	186,170	-27%
• Justice:	906,306	12,189	78,199	-3%
• L&I:	1,929,898	24,381	149,563	-19%
• Library*:	389,252	6,879	31,707	-3%
• NMOB^:	975,600	14,634	80,249	N/A
• NPSOB:	310,080	9,315	28,046	-19%
• OPSOB:	174,800	1,442	12,156	-12%
• Port SOB:	2,348,400	8,519	129,950	-9%
• Port MP:	144,125	3,250	13,886	-39%
• Print Plant:	1,273,500	6,500	90,301	-4%
• Prop Dist:	206,992	12,870	23,712	-7%
• Pub Svc:	1,551,782	3,181	105,947	-7%
• Pub Utility:	922,800	1,249	67,297	-21%
• Real Estate:	125,160	5,448	14,454	-16%
• Revenue:	5,482,922	49,919	360,238	-10%
• Salem MP:	300,669	8,995	28,698	-16%
TOTAL DAS:	30,634,920	328,595	\$2,254,245	-13%

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.

Also, usage is irregular due to building start-up.

Maximize October Energy Savings

October is the perfect time to help your building save energy. Usually in October, the weather is pretty mild – it's a transition time between the warm summer months and cold winter months.

The last year has been tough weather for energy conservation in DAS buildings. The cold weather with the snow and ice storm in January set us back by having to run the heating 24/7 for a week to keep the buildings warm enough. Then, over the summer, we had several 100 degree+ days in a row that required running the cooling 24/7 for several days in a row to keep the buildings cool enough. If we don't make up some ground from these weather times, we risk losing our buffer to meet the 10% reduction requirement (check it out to the left – we're only at 13% for the year – we can't lose anymore ground!). Please watch those blinds, turn off your plug loads and lights in empty rooms. Let's make this efficient time of year work for us!

Did you know...



a naturally occurring shield of "greenhouse gases" (primarily water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and, nitrous oxide), comprising 1 to 2 percent of the Earth's atmosphere, absorbs some of the solar radiation that would otherwise be radiated to space and helps warm the planet to a comfortable, livable temperature range. Without this natural "greenhouse effect," the average temperature on Earth would be approximately -2 degrees Fahrenheit, rather than the current 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source: Marion County Master Recycler newsletter, Feb 2004. U.S. EPA (2003) "Climate Change and Waste - What Is The Link?" Online. November 19, 2003. http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/global_warming.nsf/content/ActionsWaste.html.

Sustainable Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner. Besides ghoulish fun, it also means lots of waste for our costumes, parties, and candy wrappers. What's a sustainably-minded person to do to eliminate this garbage, but still enjoy the holiday in our homes and offices? Here are some suggestions:

- Have your children carry pillow cases or canvas bags when trick-or-treating, rather than single-use plastic bags.
- Make costumes from items around your house that can be reused later.
- Give bulk candy to co-workers at your desk, rather than individually-wrapped items.
- Be sure to compost your pumpkins, gourds, and other natural Halloween decorations.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Reuse all those extra forms and packets from open enrollment. Since many employees don't need to fill anything out, return the extras to PEGB to reuse in 2005.