



# Waste Watcher

Summer 2004



Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators

## 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 – April 2004 data are as follows:

	Electricity	Gas	%	Cost
• Agriculture:	330,320	11,454	-20%	\$ 33,540
• Albina:	159,295	8,648	-18%	18,046
• Archives:	397,700	17,929	-14%	40,188
• Blind Comm:	98,180	3,859	-18%	11,003
• Burns:	138,520	---	+8%	9,437
• Central Pt:	172,840	8,614	-9%	16,813
• Employ:	1,578,407	---	-14%	97,382
• Executive:	285,240	6,266	-15%	26,250
• Gen Svcs:	205,360	6,256	-31%	21,266
• GS Annex:	8,686	790	-9%	1,484
• Hum Svcs:	1,102,997	24,933	-27%	94,718
• Justice:	383,614	10,681	-19%	37,603
• L&I:	912,976	21,284	-19%	78,178
• Library*:	179,939	6,636	-22%	18,003
• NMOB^:	445,500	12,639	N/A	41,909
• NPSOB:	139,920	7,084	-20%	14,932
• OPSOB:	75,920	1,207	-14%	5,775
• Port SOB:	1,105,200	8,053	-11%	64,554
• Port MP:	93,277	2,781	-40%	9,241
• Print Plant:	580,900	5,799	-10%	44,236
• Prop Dist:	102,016	12,570	-7%	17,587
• Pub Svc:	745,680	2,849	-5%	51,327
• Public Utility:	418,600	925	-25%	31,353
• Real Estate:	55,500	5,057	-7%	8,879
• Revenue:	2,778,940	30,027	-6%	22,705
• Salem MP:	158,712	7,454	-11%	17,575

**TOTAL DAS: 14,638,370 264,264 -14% \$1,166,570**

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.

## New Employees and Resource Conservation

We need to constantly remind state workers about resource conservation. However, it's especially important for new employees to learn the ropes of what is expected for them. DAS has prepared a brochure that can be distributed to new employees, or as a refresher for any employee. The resource guide contains information about:

- Energy conservation
- Centralized garbage & recycling collection
- Items recycled in state buildings
- Water conservation
- Sustainability

You can find the handy form on the DAS website at [http://www.das.state.or.us/DAS/FAC/docs/resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.das.state.or.us/DAS/FAC/docs/resource_guide.pdf). It should be printed double-sided and tri-folded. It could be added to a new employee orientation packet, handed out as its own document, or even just left on the new employee's desk.

Education on these items is even more important now that state agencies are responsible for reporting sustainability initiatives to the Governor's Office. The items listed on the brochure is a great way to track the progress in your office and develop your agency's required sustainability plan.



## Staying cool this summer – some tips

Here are some for staying cool this summer, and in the summers.

- If you sit by a window, close your blinds when the sun shines in. Open them when the sun is not shining on them. And, if the sun shines in the morning, close them before you leave for the day.
- Dress in cotton and cool clothes. If you're cooler in the morning and warmer in the afternoon, dress in layers that you can remove when you warm up.
- Drink lots of water. Water regulates your body temperature and can help you feel cooler.

## Miscellaneous Resource Updates

- **Weather** – according to NOAA, abnormal dryness and relatively warm conditions are likely over the Northwest US during the summer 2004 and into early Fall. <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/Portland/afd?SLCPMD90D>

## Water Conservation

Water conservation continues to be important this summer in Salem. Since the City of Salem's largest reservoir, Franzen, is still under construction, the water available for business and residential use needs to be conserved.

Here are some tips:

- Irrigate sparingly, with no more than 1" a week.

*NOTE: DAS irrigates the Capitol Mall with water from wells and recycled water from chillers, not potable City water that should be conserved.*

- Report all water leaks that you notice inside the buildings (sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, etc. ) or outside the buildings on irrigation lines if you see puddles around sprinkler heads.
- Turn off the water in break rooms while you soap up your dishes – use water only for rinsing.
- Don't run the drinking fountain to cool the water down prior to filling up containers.

Thanks for your help!



## State Agency Update

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

### Department of Consumer & Business Services

For over a decade, there has been an active resource conservation committee in the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS) named Wastebusters. The purpose of Wastebusters is to promote sustainability within the agency and to be an available information source for all staff. Representatives from each division meet every month to discuss new developments in sustainability, and to brainstorm ideas for more efficient resource use within the agency. Wastebusters educates all new employees with a presentation outlining the agency goals and requirements regarding resource conservation. In addition, Wastebusters has conducted two training sessions of "The Natural Step," which is based on four guidelines to provide a framework of scientifically based principles to guide businesses to sustainability. Currently, committee members are working in conjunction with the Director's Office to write the agency policy on sustainability. Our continued efforts promoting the reduction of paper use and energy use are showing positive results. With the help of a new member, we are making some exciting changes to our web site.

Submitted by: Wayne Boyle and Pam Thompson, Dept of Consumer & Business Services

## Did you know...

There are more than 100 million exit signs in use throughout the U.S. Typically lit by incandescent bulbs, these signs consume 30-35 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) hours of energy each year.

Note: DAS buildings has converted most of the incandescent exit signs to LED, which are considerably more efficient.

Source: [http://208.254.22.6/index.cfm?c=exit\\_signs\\_pr\\_exit\\_signs](http://208.254.22.6/index.cfm?c=exit_signs_pr_exit_signs)



## Tip of the Month

Do your actions really matter...in the big picture? YES, THEY DO! The items that tenants plug into the outlets in a general office building (the plug loads) account for about 13% of the total building energy use; lighting is another approximate 24%; and the HVAC is the other roughly 63%. That means the tenants have the direct ability to influence around 37% of a total building energy bill. While DAS, and other state agencies that operate buildings, work hard to ensure that HVAC is operating as efficiently as possible, we need your help with the other 37%. Just imagine if you could save 37% on your bill at home – you'd do it, wouldn't you? By purchasing energy-efficient equipment, turning off the plug loads at night when you leave, and turning off lights when not needed, you could save the state millions of dollars a year. Plus, by managing blinds effectively, not using space heaters, and other items that confuse the HVAC system, you're also helping with the 63%. Thanks!

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