

Attachment 3 Energy Saving Programs: County Facilities

The General Services Agency (GSA) has followed both the traditional energy conservation and more current energy efficiency approaches to reducing energy use and costs in County of San Luis Obispo facilities. Efforts have been made by multiple organizations in the County to reduce energy use, many of which are not reported. This includes such groups as Maintenance, Parks/Golf, Departments, and others.

Energy audits were completed on approximately 20 facilities resulting in hundreds of recommendations with estimated savings, costs, and paybacks. After review, recommendations were turned into projects to reduce maintenance, upgrade lighting & HVAC, pumps, motors, and other equipment to higher-efficiency equipment. Implementation of Utility Manager software to receive, pay, & track utility invoices has resulted in reduced processing costs and capturing of data usable for benchmarking facilities energy use.

In many areas, controls were added to assure that equipment operates only when required. Specifically, we upgraded to T8, CFL, & LED lamps in nearly all facilities, high SEER/EER HVAC units, installed energy management systems (Delta), and installed dozens of motion sensors, exit signs, photocells, and daylight controls.

Little has been accomplished with renewables due to high costs and lack of tax and depreciation credits. Costs have recently fallen to a more cost-effective level and present the only method to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in County facilities.

GSA partnered with the Integrated Waste Management Authority to provide new blue recycling containers in offices to increase recycling efforts by County employees, and with the SLO Energy Watch Partnership to provide additional equipment upgrades in 23 additional buildings.

Funding for the work has come from four main sources: Countywide Energy Conservation Funds, Department of Energy ARRA/EECBG Grants, Utility Rebates/Incentives, and CIP project funding.

FY 2010-2011 Energy Costs & Savings	
Electric Use	18,133,796 kWh
Electric Cost	\$ 2,751,891
Cost/kWh	\$ 0.1518
Electric Use Saved	3,892,275 kWh
Electric Costs Saved	\$590,672
Natural Gas Use	381,287 Therms
Natural Gas Cost	\$263,379
Cost/Therm	\$0.6908 / Therm
Therms Saved	7,747 Therms
Natural Gas Cost Saved	\$5,352
Rebates & Grants	\$2,679,716

Golf Course Operations

Dairy Creek Golf Course is one of three County golf facilities operated by County Parks. The County is working towards making Dairy Creek a sustainable operation, with the goal of becoming a zero-waste golf course. A compost facility/demonstration park has been created using in-vessel composters, worm bins, and a compost tea brewer that turn green waste and food waste into usable organic fertilizer products. This process results in continued environmental awareness and sustainability at Dairy Creek Golf Course. These efforts will also provide opportunities for a more sustainable business model by reducing waste streams and generating low-cost or no-cost fertilizer products that may reduce pesticide and water usage as well.