



# Waste Watcher

Fall 2008

Quarterly, electronic newsletter for state agency resource & sustainability 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 now a 20% reduction in electricity and natural gas usage. The buildings without baseline adjustments are not normalized 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; not all utilities. This list does not include all DAS-owned or operated buildings. Due to a delay in utilities bills processing, many of the numbers are estimated this quarter, and dollar amounts were not available.

January-July 2008 data are as follows:

	Billed Electricity	Billed Gas	% savings
• Agriculture:	600,216	18,298	-17%
• Albina:	207,036	5,459	-23%
• Archives:	620,031	18,665	-28%
• Blind Comm:	171,981	9,988	+21%
• Burns:	387,213	---	+30%
• Central Pt:	300,000	1,200	-16%
• Commerce:	190,145	4,327	-27%
• Data Ctr.:	3,700,000	5,200	N/A
• Employ:	1,500,000	---	-27%
• Executive:	555,000	6,320	-27%
• Gen Svcs:	485,000	8,560	+2%
• GS Annex:	28,643	585	-1%
• Hum Svcs:	2,281,087	36,266	-12%
• L&I:	1,600,000	3,280	-1%
• Library:	298,930	8,426	-46%
• NMOB:	854,319	10,879	-13%
• NPSOB:	228,669	6,679	-36%
• OPSOB:	150,000	1,817	-1%
• Port Cr Lab:	939,147	17,311	-23%
• Port SOB:	2,000,000	12,500	-13%
• Port MP:	111,392	2,802	-39%
• Print Plant:	921,385	4,767	-15%
• Prop Dist:	137,619	11,257	-13%
• Pub Svc:	1,453,148	2,175	-11%
• Pub Utility:	1,012,783	937	-3%
• Real Estate:	120,024	4,299	-15%
• Revenue:	2,650,000	40,000	-37%
• Salem MP:	222,000	9,400	-15%
• Spring MP:	66,255	1,023	-25%
• <b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>28,000,000</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>-22%</b>

Note: DAS is investigating factors for buildings not meeting 10% goal. N/A = new baselines being developed to ensure accuracy.

\* The DAS total percent change includes buildings whose baselines need to be adjusted.



## ONE THING

The DAS Sustainability Program recently launched "One Thing Thursday," a weekly email series that contains one, simple, sustainable action to implement in the workplace or at home. Combating climate change or social inequality seems like such a big task. However, if everyone changed one thing now and then, we could make a big difference on the world around us. In addition to the environment, the messages also contain ideas to support our community and make smart economic decisions that save taxpayer money. Be on the look out for the emails, which began their weekly run on October 2. Contact Elin Shepard if you're not receiving the emails and you want to. In addition, Elin wants to hear from you if you have general sustainability suggestions or ideas for an email. Watch for suggestion boxes in buildings, an on-line tool, or just email or call Elin directly.



## Energy Committees – volunteers needed!

One of the most critical and overlooked, parts of a sustainability and resource conservation program are the people who occupy the building. You need to be involved in the decisions and policy-making for your building and your space. After all, we spend more time at work than we do at home (not counting sleeping).

DAS is embarking on an unprecedented program to establish five tenant committees in five buildings every six months. We recognize the value of having input from our key stakeholders and don't feel we can have a successful program without it. We need you!

If you're interested in joining a committee for your building, please ensure the following:

- you have supervisor approval,
- you can dedicate 4 hours a month to committee activities,
- you are committed to helping save resources and promote a culture of sustainability in your building, and might already have some ideas to get started,
- you have 4-6 other coworkers in the building who are also interested,
- you like to work with others cooperatively.

If this sounds like you, please call Alison Christensen, DAS Statewide Resource Coordinator at 503-378-6580.

## Compact Fluorescent Recycling

The Home Depot® is launching a free, national in-store, consumer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program at all 1,973 The Home Depot locations. This free service is the first program so widely available by a retailer in the United States and offers customers additional options for making environmentally conscious decisions from purchase to disposal. At each The Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will then be managed responsibly by an environmental management company who will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance. The CFL recycling program is an extension of The Home Depot's Eco Options program. Eco Options, launched in April 2007, is a classification that allows customers to easily identify products that have less of an impact on the environment. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an easy change consumers can make to reduce energy use at home. According to the EPA's ENERGY STAR® program, if every American switched out one incandescent bulb to a CFL, it would prevent more than 600 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from 800,000 cars. As the largest retailer of light bulbs in the country, The Home Depot sold over 75 million CFL's in 2007, which saved Americans approximately \$4.8 billion in energy costs and 51.8 billion pounds in CO2 greenhouse gases over the life of the bulbs. For more information on the CFL Recycling Program or Eco Options, please visit [www.homedepot.com/ecoptions](http://www.homedepot.com/ecoptions).

Source: <http://www.earthshare-oregon.org/news-stories/esornews/homedepotcfl>



## Solar Roof Tour

When the 2007 Legislature passed HB2620, public sector agencies all over the state looked at solar in a new way. Beginning Jan 1, 2008, 1.5 percent of the construction cost in new buildings or major renovations must be applied towards solar panels. While agencies had always thought solar was a nice addition to buildings, it didn't always make financial sense. However, since the bill passed, there have been increases in incentives through the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy. Now solar has become more affordable, but what do we know about it? Not much. State agencies realized that we all had a lot to learn. Now, through the help of the Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network, agencies are talking and sharing this kind of information. In fact, in early July, DAS sponsored a trip to seven different solar installations in Salem and Eugene for interested agencies from the Network. Eleven staff members from six agencies toured solar arrays on Kettle Foods in Salem; PepsiCo, Sequential Biofuels, and other carports in Eugene. They heard the basics from the designer of the systems, saw the arrays, and talked with the maintenance staff on issues with the buildings. Also in Eugene, the group toured several progressive solar installations on the University of Oregon campus and talked with a professor who's developing new solar technology. It was an illuminating day of information-sharing, camaraderie, and sunscreen.



From left: Elin Shepard (DAS), Mike Auman (ODOE), Jessica Balsam (DAS), Dave Barenberg (ETO), Andy Kuss (DAS), Craig Harper (DEQ), Lee Weidman (DAS)

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## Moving to Heating in DAS Buildings

Almost as fast as it arrived, summer is over again. As days get shorter and the temperature cools down, so do state buildings. Here are a few things to do to stay warm as cooler weather approaches:

- ⊗ Dress for cooler weather. Dress in layers or bring an extra sweater for the cooler afternoon and evening temperatures.
- ⊗ If you sit by a window, open your blinds when the sun shines directly on the window and close your blinds at night when you leave (i.e. the opposite of summer – this brings in warm air to help heat the building during the day and keeps out the cold air at night).
- ⊗ Drink lots of water and fewer warm beverages. They throw off your body's natural temperature adjustment and make you prone to internal temperature extremes.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Passive solar heating is when you capture the sun's energy through conduction by glass or absorption through wall and floor mass. Good passive solar design lets that heat be absorbed by some mass and released over time, as in the insulated and absorptive walls of stuccos famous in the SW.

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