



# Waste Watcher

Spring 2008

Quarterly, electronic newsletter for state agency resource and sustainability coordinators



**Electric Rates** – Portland General Electric is forecasting 6-8% rate increase for 2009 for commercial customers. More details later.

## 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.

January 2008 data are as follows:

	Billed Electricity	Billed Gas	Billed Cost	% change
• Agriculture:	88,698	4,822	\$ 12,902	+9%
• Albina*:	35,077	1,541	4,142	N/A
• Archives:	94,301	4,967	12,651	-10%
• Blind Comm:	28,364	2,799	5,791	+52%
• Burns:	47,118	---	2,545	+37%
• Central Pt:	42,273	3,071	6,366	+4%
• Commerce*:	26,570	1,396	3,874	N/A
• Data Ctr^:	574,919	1,624	44,952	N/A
• Employ*:	279,527	---	21,409	N/A
• Executive:	85,999	2,427	10,167	+10%
• Gen Svcs:	59,911	2,816	8,467	-8%
• GS Annex:	4,553	199	650	+4%
• Hum Svcs:	322,980	9,468	34,788	-9%
• L&I:	247,644	11,321	31,897	+7%
• Library*:	41,918	2,657	6,247	N/A
• NMHD*:	3,377	1,073	1,770	N/A
• NMOB*:	112,457	4,194	14,155	N/A
• NPSOB:	36,763	2,055	4,770	-13%
• OPSOB:	20,325	777	2,250	+5%
• Port CL*:	154,518	5,068	17,328	N/A
• Port SOB:	276,216	4,584	21,218	-17%
• Port MP:	19,989	934	2,888	-45%
• Print Plant:	143,240	1,490	13,190	-12%
• Prop Dist:	21,402	4,238	6,447	-5%
• Pub Svc:	234,486	670	18,525	-3%
• Pub Utility:	132,649	330	11,670	-4%
• Real Estate:	17,398	1,657	3,390	+9%
• Revenue*:	459,180	12,034	45,608	N/A
• Salem MP:	41,681	3,025	7,043	+15%
• Spring MP*:	6,370	377	755	N/A
<b>TOTAL DAS:</b>	<b>4,359,630</b>	<b>110,734</b>	<b>\$455,256</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Note: DAS is investigating factors for buildings not meeting 10% goal.

\* Baseline adjusted for usage patterns, project impacts, and weather. However, baseline adjustment tool had a glitch in transitioning to 2008 and will be repaired for next month's report.

^ Baseline adjustment under further analysis.

## Annual Recycling Report

Garten Services sent their annual recycling report of measureable for the State offices in which collect waste and confidential paper. It's amazing.

The State of Oregon agencies that contract with Garten Services:

- ♣ saved the equivalent of 41,167 trees that would have been harvested for pulp,
- ♣ reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to eliminating 3,775 cars from the road in a year,
- ♣ reduced water a pulp mills equivalent to the water that would be used to take 605,410 personal baths,
- ♣ saved energy that would be equivalent to 531,755 gallons of gasoline, and
- ♣ eliminated costs and environmental impacts associated with hauling 12,108 cubic yards of waste to the land fill.

Nice job!! This helps meet the sustainability goals in Governor Kulongoski's Executive Order 06-02, as well as our individual agencies' missions around sustainability and resource conservation.



## What's with the crazy numbers this month?

If you've ever wondered how weather impacts buildings, take a look at the energy numbers for January. It was a cold month, with low temperatures in the teens and some highs only in the 20s. We had to run the buildings overnight and into the weekends to keep folks comfortable. While it was the right thing to do, it led to poor energy performance. I suspect these weather impacts will carry into the February numbers as well. While it's scary to see such high numbers in the chart, it also provides a great opportunity for us to put the pedal to the metal and work extra hard to offset these increases. Let's make 2008 our best year yet!

## Tip of the Month

Eliminate unnecessary lighting. Remove unnecessary lamps, but be sure to maintain safe lighting conditions for work areas. Turn off lights when they are not in use. Install motion sensors, timers, and other simple lighting controls to turn lights on and off according to occupancy and time of day.



*Excerpt from Portland General Electric, "The Energy Top Ten"*



### Did you know?

Over 100 pesticide ingredients are suspected to cause birth defects, cancer, and gene mutations. See the article to the right for more info.

Source:  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/11353/facts.htm>

## Miscellaneous Updates

### 2008 Legislative Update

The Oregon Legislature met in February of 2008 for its first "annual" session. While there weren't the usual number of issues for a regular odd-year session, they passed at least one bill that is worth noting - HB 3612. This bill will put into statute and rule the requirement from Governor's Executive Order 06-02 that state agencies save 20% of their energy use from the year 2000 by 2015. It also formalizes some of the existing SEED requirements, allows the Oregon Dept of Energy to develop a list of qualified energy savings performance contractors, and adds some additional reporting. Finally, it adds the requirement that state leases move towards an increased level of energy conservation as well, rather than just state-owned buildings. While most agencies who own facilities were working down this path because of the E.O., the bill changes a few things and may require some course corrections, including a new process at DAS to increase the energy conservation language in leases.

### Road Show

Elin Shepard is putting together a "road show" on state agency sustainability and resource conservation successes, green power (including pictures and information from a tour of PGE's new wind farm, Biglow Canyon), policy updates, and more. The intent is to take it around to agency meetings - general staff, energy or sustainability committees, management teams, or any other groups that are interested. She plans to have the road show ready for its debut by mid-May and will be interested in scheduling times to meet with you. Please be thinking how a presentation of this nature could benefit your agency, and give Elin a call if you see a good fit.



## Don't Just Wear Green, Be Green!

### By Maryjean Rose

St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner. Traditionally, it is a day to celebrate your Irish heritage by wearing green or drinking green beer. But whether you are Irish or not, it's a day to have some good "green" fun! Try these five suggestions and be green this St. Patrick's Day.

- 1) If you drink beer, drink organic beer. Oregon has more organic breweries than any other state, and Portland has more organic breweries than any other city in the country. Ask your grocery store to stock local organically brewed beers.
- 2) Buy organic coffee. Not only is organic coffee better for you because it is produced without harmful chemicals, it also helps prevent deforestation of rainforests and promotes fair trade in economically challenged regions of the world. According to the Organic Trade Association, organic coffee has a lower impact on the environment, reduces the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides, and helps with sustainability by replenishing and maintaining soil nutrients. There are many good reasons to go green with your coffee. Encourage your friends and family to try it as well, and remember your reusable mug.
- 3) Wear green (organic) clothing. Did you know that conventionally grown cotton, the non-organic kind, uses more chemicals per unit area than any other crop in the country and accounts for 16% of the world's pesticide use? The chemicals used in the processing of cotton pollutes our air and surface waters. Residual chemicals can cause skin irritation. On the positive side, organic cotton producers use crop rotation instead of chemicals and artificial fertilizers, and biological pest control instead of pesticides.
- 4) Plant something green. What a great way to celebrate your Irish heritage or just do something good for yourself! March is a great time of year to begin planting your garden. You can prepare your beds by adding compost, raking them, watering, and then let them settle for a week before planting. March is also a great time to plant fruit trees, deciduous shrubs, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.
- 5) Eat Green. Did you know that over 3,000 "high risk" toxins have been found in the US food supply, which by law are excluded from organic food? These include 73 pesticides classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as potential carcinogens. A study conducted by the University of Washington found that children fed a diet of organic foods were 6 to 9 times less likely to be exposed to toxic pesticides than children fed a conventional diet. For these reasons and more, it's more important to get your family involved in eating green by purchasing organic products whenever possible.

There are many reason to "be green", and these five ideas are a great way to start. With a little research and imagination you can have fun being green this St. Patrick's Day!

Reprinted with permission from Maryjean Rose, who wrote this article for the Marion County Master Recycler newsletter. [www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es/master](http://www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es/master)

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