



# Waste Watcher

Summer 2007

Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators



## General Updates

- Weather – the National Weather Service is predicting average temperatures and precipitation.

## 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.

January–April 2007 data are as follows:

	Electricity	Gas	%	Cost
• Agriculture:	321,933	8,907	-27% \$	37,546
• Albina:	N/A	3,596	N/A	N/A
• Archives:	413,530	17,772	-11%	52,097
• Blind Comm:	97,540	4,112	-12%	14,343
• Burns:	170,085	---	+30%	9,534
• Central Pt:	163,283	7,411	-9%	20,466
• Commerce:	97,647	3,516	-44%	13,026
• Data Ctr.:	1,878,450	4,393	N/A	140,443
• Employ:	N/A	---	N/A	N/A
• Executive:	282,548	6,067	-13%	32,470
• Gen Svcs:	217,858	6,475	-21%	27,618
• GS Annex:	14,795	469	-8%	2,001
• Hum Svcs:	1,251,955	18,310	-24%	116,755
• L&I:	897,914	22,370	-16%	92,267
• Library:	162,135	6,386	N/A	22,201
• NMOB:	429,122	8,401	N/A	46,612
• NPSOB:	145,543	9,367	-4%	19,115
• OPSOB:	81,229	1,775	+2%	7,432
• Port Cr Lab:	546,096	14,920	N/A	57,928
• Port SOB:	1,017,098	10,741	-19%	80,820
• Port MP:	80,897	1,970	-48%	9,419
• Print Plant:	613,022	4,697	-4%	52,881
• Prop Dist:	102,217	9,508	-15%	19,527
• Pub Svc:	826,701	2,316	-4%	65,927
• Pub Utility:	453,140	840	-19%	38,156
• Real Estate:	61,772	4,423	-7%	11,055
• Revenue:	1,851,546	36,213	-25%	173,004
• Salem MP:	151,501	7,476	-7%	22,271
• Spring MP:	36,298	829	N/A	2,855

**TOTAL DAS: 15,406,634 246,955 -28%\* \$1,460,901**

Note: DAS is investigating factors for buildings not meeting 10% goal.  
 N/A = new baselines being developed to ensure accuracy.  
 \* The DAS total includes buildings whose baselines need to be adjusted.  
 The % will improve when these adjustments occur.

## Shredding

Please don't forget that shredded paper needs to be put in a plastic bag on top of the paper recycling. It can't be dumped directly into the paper recycling without a bag because it contaminates the entire barrel because there's no way to guarantee that a small bit of food, colored paper, or other contaminants have gotten into the mix. This means the whole barrel has to be sold for a lower value.



## Irrigation and Fountains

Around this time of year, DAS is often asked how they conserve water for irrigation and fountain operation. DAS has a sophisticated irrigation system called Maxicom. This system is tied to the weather stations and water sensors that know if it's rained or will be raining soon, and then they don't turn on. In addition, in the DAS Landscape Office at Garden Pride, they can monitor what's happening and adjust the system if needed. It's helped save millions of gallons of water over the years.

The fountains have also been a source of water savings in recent years. DAS runs three fountains on the Capitol Mall: the Wall of Water, Waite Fountain, and the Sprague Fountain. Previously, the fountains came on in March and ran through October for 12-14 hours a day. Even though they do have water recovery systems, they lose a lot of water to evaporation. Now, the fountains run during the high points of the summer – from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to Labor Day from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. This allows people to enjoy them, while still saving money on water and electricity.

## 28% - really?

While the DAS building savings is showing 28% so far this year, it's a bit misleading. It's comparing the very mild 2007 winter to the more severe 2000 winter. We used MUCH less natural gas in 2007 than we did in 2000. While it's good news that we're doing well, we expect that this summer could be warmer in July and August than 2000 and could drive up the electrical use for the chillers. This means conservation is going to be more important than ever, especially for electricity. Turning of any unused plug loads and managing your blinds properly is critical in helping us keep our accumulated savings above 10%. Thanks much!!



## Water Conservation

Water conservation is an important part of the resource conservation program, and the folks in DAS buildings play a big role. If you see a leaking faucet in your break room or rest room, please contact your building facility coordinator immediately. If you notice your drinking fountain is leaking or has a slow drip from the spout, please contact your building facility coordinator immediately. And, if you see any large puddles in the landscaping that could mean a leaking sprinkler, please contact your building facility coordinator immediately. The DAS staff work hard to fix these things when they see them, but they can't be everywhere. DAS counts on the staff in the buildings to be our eyes for some of these things, and even a few days can make a difference.

## Plug Load Savings

Here are some ideas for saving energy on larger plug loads in DAS buildings, the ones that are beyond just your individual work stations:

### • WATER COOLERS

Many of us enjoy water coolers in our buildings, particularly over the summer months, when they generate cool water. However, are these devices consuming too much energy and should they be avoided in DAS buildings? DAS recently discovered that water coolers now have an Energy Star certification, similar to fluorescent lights and other equipment. According to the Energy Star website, "A standard hot & cold bottled water cooler can use more energy than a large refrigerator. An ENERGY STAR qualified model requires about half as much energy as a standard unit. Earning the ENERGY STAR means a product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy." These machines have improved separation of hot and cold water to prevent mixing, more insulation to better keep heated water hot and chilled water cold, and improved chilling mechanisms. An Energy Star certified machine could save up to \$47 a year, per machine. The link below gives more information about this cost-saving measure.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water\\_coolers.pr\\_water\\_coolers](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water_coolers.pr_water_coolers)

### • VENDING MACHINES

There are vending machines in all DAS buildings – some use energy and some do not. However, there is a way to save money on the cold beverage vending machines, and that is by using a Vending Miser. Several years ago DAS went into all the buildings and added these devices in the break rooms. It's an occupancy sensor that is connected to the compressor and it shuts the machine down when no one is present. It still runs a cycle or two to keep the soda cold, but doesn't cool it more than it needs. Take a look around your break room and see if your Vending Miser has been disconnected or is no longer there at all. If you find it is, please give Elin Shepard a call at 503-378-2865 x241 and we'll fix it.

### • COPY MACHINES AND PRINTERS

Office equipment uses 4-10% of a building's total energy consumption, which amounts to about \$800,000 in DAS buildings each biennium. Of that total, copy machines and printers are about another 20-40%. Turning them off at night has the potential of major savings in DAS buildings each year. Most of them already power down, which is better than staying on. But, if someone takes it upon themselves to turn them off completely at night, that's the best yet.

## Tip of the Month

We're all busy at work and sometimes the last thing we want to worry about is energy conservation. So, how about if you let someone else do it for you? One way to make energy conservation practical for busy professionals is to assign one person as an "energy monitor," and rotate that responsibility weekly or monthly. It's kind of like the hall monitor we all remember from grade school, but they just send you reminders rather than send you to the principal's office. The weekly energy monitor can take 5 minutes at the end of their day to do a quick audit of their space. Did everyone turn off their computers, monitors and other peripherals? Did they turn off their task lights? Did they close the blinds? Did they turn off the coffee pot, cozy toes, and other heat producing equipment? Is the copy machine turned off? This five minute audit has the potential to save big! After a while, once the honor has rotated to enough people, it can become part of the culture and may not be necessary anymore.



Statewide Property Management Section  
Statewide Resource Coordinator: Elin Shepard  
Phone: (503) 378-2865 x241  
Fax: (503) 373-7210  
Email: [Elin.D.Shepard@state.or.us](mailto:Elin.D.Shepard@state.or.us)  
Web Page: [www.facilities.das.state.or.us/recyclin.htm](http://www.facilities.das.state.or.us/recyclin.htm)

"The Waste Watcher" is distributed by the Resource Conservation Management Program, Department of Administrative Services, Facilities Division, 1225 Ferry St, SE U100, Salem, OR 97301-4281. Material may be reprinted in whole or in part; please credit DAS. Please contact the RCM Program if you'd like to be removed from the distribution list.