DCAS Division of Energy Management

Energy Updates

June 2010

Alert! Tomorrow (Wednesday, June 23rd) and Thursday, June 24th will be hot. For those agencies that manage buildings enrolled in NYPA's Peak Load Management program please be advised that Wednesday is a Peak Load Management Day for agencies enrolled in Option #2 only. NYPA has also advised that Thursday may also be a Peak Load Management day for agencies enrolled in Option #2 only. Please inform your colleagues and other building occupants about how to help prevent blackouts and stay cool using the Hot Day Energy Conservation flyer, described below and posted online.

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Hot Day Energy Conservation flyer

Monday, June 21st was the summer solstice and the official start to summer. We've had a handful of hot and muggy days already and we're expecting a very warm summer going forward. To help avoid blackouts in the City, mitigate higher energy costs, and keep building tenants cool, please distribute and post the attached color flyer on very hot days. The flyer lists simple steps to conserve energy such as turning off unnecessary lights and lowering window shades to block the heat of the sun.

Annual Energy Team meeting re-cap

Thank you to everyone who attended last Thursday's Annual Energy Team meeting. We were proud to host over 60 attendees representing 32 agencies, cultural institutions, libraries, CUNY and HHC. For those of you who weren't able to join us, DEM representatives reviewed the energy reductions and associated cost savings achieved in FY10, new energy management tools to help agencies better monitor and interpret their energy use, the Citywide roll-out of the Division's Operations & Maintenance program, and projects for FY11.

A pdf of the presentation can be found in the "What's New" section on DEM's website: nyc.gov/energy-conservation. The most important actions for agency energy representatives are:

- Get everyone involved! Educate agency personnel about turning off the lights and other office equipment.
- Pay attention to seasonal energy use guidelines. The cooling guidelines are especially important to review now.

- Review monthly project status updates sent by DEM (starting this summer) and submit requested project implementation information.
- Review monthly energy reports (even in current pdf format).
- Report energy changes for annual budget in January.
- Report changes in accounts using the fill-in URIF available on the DEM website.
- Watch for training notices in the late summer/early fall for both EC3 and SEPTS.

Spotlight on: NYPD Forensic Lab

The Detective Bureau Forensic Investigation Division (FID) in Jamaica, Queens occupies a unique NYPD facility where crime scene evidence is scientifically analyzed. The laboratory was originally a Montgomery Ward department store built in 1931 and was converted to police use in 1992. Because of the scientific activities that go on there, maintaining indoor air quality and lighting quality are critical. In partnership with NYPD, DEM is proceeding with a two-phase energy conservation project at the Forensic Lab, based on the recommendations of a 2006 NYPA and consultant study.

- Phase 1: The reconstruction of the interior lighting system includes the installation of new T8/electronic ballast fixtures and occupancy sensors that will shut lights off when spaces are unoccupied. The photo to the left illustrates a similar lighting upgrade at a different NYPD facility. The new fixtures, in addition to using less electricity, will improve lighting color, eliminate "ballast hum," and generate less heat. This $574,000 project will reduce electric use by nearly 400,000 kilowatt-hours annually. The project is currently in construction and is nearing completion.

- Phase 2: The reconstruction of the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system will include the installation of a new 800 ton high efficiency chiller, variable speed drives for fans, and a new gas-fired hot water heater. The project will also expand and upgrade the building automation system. Phase 2 of the project will cost $5.7 million, and will reduce electrical use by 1,286,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Phase 2 is in final design, with construction expected to begin in the fall. The new HVAC system will be operational in time for the 2011 cooling season.