



# **City Manager Report**

## **The City of OKLAHOMA CITY**

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**NO. 6692**

**DATE DECEMBER 4, 2007**

**TO THE MAYOR and MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: CITY INITIATIVES TO SAVE ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Recently, more attention has been directed toward practical ways to save energy and to be more sensitive toward environmental concerns. As part of the updated Leading for Results Business Plan for the Mayor's Office, Council Support and the City Manager's Office, concern for energy and resource conservation was included as an important issue to be addressed. In addition, there are several initiatives underway throughout the City that improve conservation and help alleviate pollution.

Allowing vehicles to idle needlessly contributes to poor air quality and wastes energy and resources. In early November, a notice was sent to all department and division heads asking them to ensure that City vehicles are not left idling.

Departments responsible for vehicle acquisition have considered the use of alternative and flexible fuels and have incorporated these vehicles into the City's fleet. The City's general fleet now includes 64 vehicles that run on compressed natural gas (CNG). In addition, 274 units are using biodiesel fuel on a regular basis. The Utilities Department plans to spend nearly \$2 million for CNG/Hybrid or biodiesel-ready vehicles and the Solid Waste Division plans to acquire nearly \$6 million worth of biodiesel vehicles in the current fiscal year as funds are available.

In the Wastewater Treatment Division, treated wastewater is reused by providing operating water for two power plants and irrigating a golf course. In addition, multiple categories of plastics have been recently added to the City's solid waste recycling program.

Several years ago, the City implemented an energy management program to examine ways to save energy and money by implementing energy conservation measures in City facilities. We are currently in the process of installing Energy Management System (EMS) controls on the City's heating and air conditioning units. The simple payback for adding these controls is 3-4 years.

Another project underway is the replacement of older inefficient water chillers, direct expansion air conditioning units, gas-fired boilers and gas furnaces with high efficiency equipment. The estimated simple payback for this project is 8-10 years. In addition, a campaign to remind

everyone working in City facilities to turn off the lights and conserve energy was initiated earlier this year.

In the Fire Department, changes are being made to increase energy efficiency and modernize construction. Radiant heaters are being installed in the rig/garage area in fire stations to maximize the efficiency of heating these areas. The area close to the vehicles will be heated and when the doors open, much less of the ambient heat will be lost, as compared to traditional heating systems. This project is expected to pay for itself in 6-7 years.

The 2000 bond issue included funding for a fire station in Bricktown. The plans for this fire station include a proposal to incorporate energy efficiency into the building and use green construction techniques and materials.

Mayor Cornett received an inquiry about electric cars and the availability of charging stations in the downtown area and at malls in Oklahoma City. We are working with Downtown Oklahoma City (DOKC) and COTPA to determine whether OG&E would have an interest in providing these stations.

There are many steps that can be taken to be more energy and resource conscious in our business decisions as an organization. As an organization, the City is working to encourage managers and employees to rethink the performance of everyday functions. There are small and large things that we can do to save both natural resources and money.



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City Manager