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DeKalb County, Georgia Greenest Urban County in America

May 2013



DeKalb County's **GREEN** Energy Partnerships *Reducing the Risk of Climate Change*

DeKalb County Government
2009 Bronze Certification



Volume 2, Issue 3



Energy efficiency is the easiest, fastest and cheapest action for saving energy while realizing monetary savings and preventing greenhouse gas emissions. The county's commitment to reducing the risk of climate change relies heavily on partnerships with green organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DeKalb County Government has been an Energy Star partner since 2009. The EPA's Energy Star program has developed energy performance rating systems for commercial and institutional building types and manufacturing facilities. Presently, DeKalb County has more than 70 buildings logged in EPA's database; tracking energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and project improvements. DeKalb County's performance contracting initiative allowed energy audits to be conducted in more than 160 buildings. The county's energy audits help determine and prioritize projects that help to improve energy efficiency. Examples include updating the "Lights Out/Power Down" Policy and the installation of cool roofs on county buildings. Addressing climate change is increasingly becoming a forefront issue with government organizations. An EPA Green Power Partner since 2006, DeKalb County's Sanitation Division developed its first local renewable energy source at the Seminole Road Landfill. Green power is electricity generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact biomass, and low-impact hydro resources. Through the EPA Green Power Partnership, the county has powered the Gregory A. Adams Juvenile Justice Center with 100% renewable energy since 2009, accounting for 848,000 megawatts of electricity! It's just another green day for DeKalb County Government.

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Sanitation Division's Green Energy Power

In 2006, DeKalb Sanitation began its first green power venture at Seminole Landfill converting 3.2 megawatts of electricity from landfill gas. In April 2012, the Sanitation Division began to convert up to 1,300 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) of landfill gas to renewable natural gas. This renewable natural gas is used for transportation fuel and presently powers 40 solid waste collection vehicles. According to EPA, Seminole is the first municipal landfill in North America to make electricity, make renewable transportation fuel, and to fuel its own county vehicles!



TAKE THE ENERGY STAR CHALLENGE

Did you know taking the ENERGY STAR challenge can help to improve the energy efficiency of America's industrial and commercial buildings by 10% or more?

Light Emitting Diode (LED) Exit Signs



Illuminated exit signs are an important and legally required safety feature in office facilities. In case of an emergency such as a fire, their operation is critical in protecting the well being of staff members. By design, the exit signs operate 24 hours per day and can consume large amounts of energy. Many exit signs in today's buildings use older, incandescent, and fluorescent/compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) technology. To make matters worse, many older exit signs require frequent maintenance due to the short life span of the lamps that light them. For example, many older exit signs consume more than 350 kilo-watt hours and cost \$28 each annually to operate.

The high-energy usage and maintenance of many exit signs is completely unnecessary due to advances in lighting technology. Solid-state light-emitting diodes (LED) are those small colored lights that have been used extensively in consumer electronics for decades. Recent technological advances have allowed exit sign manufacturers to develop signs that harness the advantages of this technology at competitive costs.

DeKalb County's Facilities Management team has installed several hundred new LED exit signs and will continue to do so as the old ones burn out; thus saving the county more than \$5,000. Ongoing efforts showcase the county's Energy Star partnership and the county's commitment to green energy.

Source: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/small_business/led_exitsigns_techsheets.pdf



WHITE ROOFS and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, through the Department of Energy Federal Stimulus Grant, allowed DeKalb County Government's Facilities Management team to invest in approximately 450,000 square feet of white roofs. White roofs, also known as cool roofs, use roofing material that can reflect sun and reduce heat transfer to the surface. DeKalb County has a total of 15 buildings with cool roofs installed and is presently working on tracking how the installation of the cool roofs have reduced the amount of electricity used to cool the buildings. Additional benefits include offsetting the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, extended longevity of roof life, reduced building heat gain, and reduction of up to 15% annual air-conditioning use.

Curious about what your personal "greenhouse gas emissions" might be? Visit EPA's Household Carbon Footprint Calculator at: www.epa.gov

And learn what you can do at home and in the office to reduce your carbon footprint.

DeKalb County Jail's Ozone Laundry System

Cost savings from DeKalb County's Energy Audits yielded money to invest in an innovative laundry ozone system at the DeKalb County Jail. Ozone is an oxidizing disinfectant that naturally removes dirt and stains from fabric, and allows the laundering with cold water. Since May 2009 DeKalb County has realized over \$100,000 in energy savings due to the installation of its laundry ozone system. On average, the DeKalb County Jail processes 11,000 pounds of laundry per day; accounting for the reduction of carbon emissions by 45,000 pounds. The benefits of this system are endless; reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage and water savings!

