

# PIERCE COUNTY / KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE ENERGY CHALLENGE

Resource Conservation staff from Pierce County and Kitsap County partnered to develop and implement a Courthouse Energy Challenge in May 2013. The goal of this innovative challenge was to increase awareness of county energy conservation programs, plans and policies amongst both employees and the public. The challenge promoted simple, no-cost conservation actions that employees can take at work, such as keeping windows closed, turning off computer equipment at night, and conducting work station energy audits. The average May billing for 2009-2012 was compared with the May 2013 energy bills to measure performance.

## CHALLENGE RESULTS

**\$0**  
Challenge Cost

**715,870 kBtu**  
Energy Savings

**\$4,688**  
Cost Savings

### PIERCE COUNTY

	2009-2012 Average	2013	CHANGE
<b>kBtu</b>	2,199,460.5	1,523,116.8	<b>-31%</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$30,187.54	\$26,482.93	<b>-\$3,705</b>

### KITSAP COUNTY

	2009-2012 Average	2013	CHANGE
<b>kBtu</b>	701,096.7	661,570.4	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$13,622.72	\$12,639.94	<b>-\$983</b>

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education and outreach played a key role in this no-cost campaign. A summary of key tactics employed by each county is provided below. Local media in both counties had interest in the Challenge and highlighted the initiative in local newspapers.

- Developed display outlining Challenge goals and conservation actions which was placed in the main floor hallway in each Courthouse.
- Advertised the Challenge to employees via emails and e-newsletters, and to the public with an article on each county's website.
- Partnered with departmental Conservation Champions to share weekly email tips and communications regarding conservation practices.
- Met with Facilities Department staff to review building HVAC schedules and equipment energy saving opportunities.
- Educated security officers about keeping front doors closed on warm days.
- Educated custodial staff about turning off lights when leaving a room and assisting in conservation efforts.



*County employees took steps to unplug items when not in use.*

## KITSAP COUNTY EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Each week a different call to action was announced to ensure a continued focus on energy-saving behaviors by County employees.

- **Week 1: Conduct a simple energy audit to identify potential savings!** A checklist was provided with instructions on how to conduct a simple work station energy audit.
- **Week 2: Reevaluate Your Use of Personal Appliances.** Specific employee actions in the 2011 Energy Conservation Policy were highlighted.
- **Week 3: Turn off Equipment for the Holiday Weekend!** Employees were reminded to shut down for the Memorial Day weekend.
- **Week 4: Keep Windows and Doors Closed for Energy Savings.** The RCM worked with the Sheriff's Office to halt the practice of having Security guards keep building doors open for ventilation on warm days.



*Information Services staff unplugged for savings.*



*Nigel Karlson, Pierce County Facilities HVAC Mechanic.*

## PIERCE COUNTY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Behind the scenes, facilities maintenance staff worked diligently to optimize building equipment, ensuring that nothing was running when it wasn't needed. The boilers that are used to heat the building account for a large portion of the building's energy use, so scaling them back when they weren't needed significantly contributed to the building's commendable energy performance.

Recent energy efficiency upgrades further contributed to Pierce County's success in the Challenge. The building's windows were recently upgraded from original single-pane glass to an energy efficient double-pane, which reduces air leakage and allows for better temperature control inside the building. Fresh water pumps were also recently replaced with a much more energy efficient model. The new pumps will only run when they are needed, which is much more efficient than the older model that ran 24 hours per day.



Pierce County

**Jessica Ludwig**

Resource Conservation Program Coordinator

[jludwig@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:jludwig@co.pierce.wa.us)

253-798-6611



**Autumn Salamack**

Resource Conservation Manager

[asalamack@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:asalamack@co.kitsap.wa.us)

360-337-5670