



Saving energy for Maine

Program of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

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**Lighting Improvements Will Reduce Civic Center's
Electricity Usage and Costs by an Estimated \$18,000 Annually**

AUGUSTA, ME (February 15, 2007) - Walk into the Augusta Civic Center auditorium one of these days and you might not be able to pinpoint the improvement, but there's been a change for the better.

During trade shows, display materials appear more vibrant. Event photos are a bit sharper. During the upcoming tournaments, the basketball court will be more brightly lit for athletes, making for safer play.

Next Tuesday, February 20th, at the City Council meeting, the Civic Center will be publicly recognized for partnering with the Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine program on the installation of energy-efficient lighting throughout the multi-purpose, 25,000-square-foot auditorium. Commission Chairman Kurt Adams will lead a brief presentation at 7 pm.

The result is good news for taxpayers as well as the environment. The new lighting is expected to lower the facility's electricity usage by roughly 118,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year, or an estimated savings of \$18,000 annually in electricity costs. The lowered kWh usage will also avert the production 40 tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere when power plants generate electricity, contributing to global warming.

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Efficiency Maine served as a resource for information on the latest energy efficient technologies, and helped guide civic center officials through the changeover process.

“The new lighting is even better than we expected,” remarks Dana Colwill, facility director. “It’s brighter than the old incandescent lights and looks nicer. We can service clients better because we can dim portions of the new lights and use just the right amount of lighting for each event.”

And the good news continues. The Civic Center qualified for a cash incentive of \$6,750 from Efficiency Maine to help offset installation expenses.

“We are excited about the opportunity to save money,” says maintenance director Stephen Dowling. “The cash incentive really helps to speed things up. We’re expecting a quick payback on the project - only two and a half years.”

Efficiency Maine is a statewide program administered by the Maine PUC to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine’s environment. Businesses of all sizes can receive free advice, and certain energy-efficient equipment upgrades may qualify for cash incentives. More information is available by calling toll-free, 1-866-376-2463 or online at www.energymaine.com.