

Press Release



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The Verdict Is In: Energy Efficiency Helps Save Money For Penobscot County Courthouse

Augusta, MAINE (August 15, 2005) – Energy efficiency has been on the maintenance docket at Bangor’s Penobscot County Courthouse for the past decade. Last September, Facilities Manager Thomas Duffy oversaw the courthouse’s most recent installation of a new boiler system and controls that resulted in energy savings of both fuel and electricity. Manager Duffy worked with Maine Public Utilities Commission’s Efficiency Maine Business Program (EMBP) and its Program Ally Mechanical Services when deciding on the type of electric equipment to be installed.

The Courthouse saved money two ways: By installing the electric equipment according to program guidelines, the courthouse received a cash incentive check for \$3,985 once the project was completed in November of 2004. Secondly, Efficiency Maine Business Program estimates Penobscot County Courthouse will continue to realize savings of \$3,100 annually, based on 27,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity being saved through these installations. This amount would serve the electric needs of four and a half Maine homes for one year.

With the system in place for almost a year now, Duffy is already seeing results. “With energy costs going up, the efficiency we have gained is a big help,” said Manager Duffy.

The equipment that qualified under the Business Program included variable speed drives on the water heating pumps, fans and burner motors. These drives match the system needs in things like the amount of heating to the appropriate level of water flow in the system. By matching system operation to building needs, the courthouse can reduce the amount of energy required.

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For example, the savings include a 16-17% reduction in amperage drawing on the burners, according to Bernie Seay, service manager at Mechanical Services, the Program Ally that installed the equipment. Mechanical Services is one of almost 350 Program Allies statewide that work with Efficiency Maine to promote and install energy efficient electric equipment that meet program guidelines.

Local and county governments, businesses, nonprofits, farms, public and private schools (K-12), colleges, and water and wastewater treatment facilities all qualify to receive cash incentives. Information about the Efficiency Maine Business Program is available by phone, 1-866-376-2463 and on the Web at www.energymaine.com.

The Business Program is one of several programs offered by Efficiency Maine, which is a statewide effort to promote efficient electric use, help lower overall electricity costs for Maine ratepayers, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.