

Green revolution is creeping through Capitol

BY BARBARA HOBEROCK
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — A green revolution of sorts is going on at the state Capitol. A small contingent has been quietly removing light bulbs, changing out toilets and installing light and motion sensors.

This group has a rather serious mission.

As Mike Enneking sees it, sustainability plus green technology results in saving money.

Enneking is the director of facilities management for the Department of Central Services, which runs state buildings in the Capitol complex and in Tulsa.

His team finds ways to save money and reduce carbon footprints.

He shows a visitor his department's trash. There is not much of it. He gladly provides a demonstration on the difference between ener-

gy-sucking, heat-producing light bulbs and those that are more efficient.

The Capitol recently switched to compact fluorescent lighting from incandescent bulbs. The bulbs will last much longer and require less energy, Enneking said.

Last month, more than 1,000 bulbs were changed; and the new bulbs will eventually be recycled, he said.

T.O. Bowman, sustainability awareness coordinator for all DCS buildings, said the moves are meant to be an example for the public of how Oklahomans can operate more efficiently.

In Enneking's office just a short walk from the Capitol, light, motion and voice sensors reduce the cost of electricity used for lighting.

If the sun is shining, the light level is automatically reduced, Enneking said.

In the tunnels that connect Capitol complex buildings, motion sensors were

If some state employees — "energy champions" — have their way, the state Capitol will be green all year long.

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installed to reduce the need for lighting.

In the Capitol, toilets requiring less water were installed.

Users are given the option of determining, via two buttons on the back, whether they want a 1.2-gallon flush or a 1.6-gallon flush. The toilets will flush automatically if no selection is made.

Low-flush urinals were also installed. The urinals use one pint of water per flush instead of a gallon, En-

neking said.

The move will save an estimated 1 million gallons of water a year, he said.

Plans call for installation of hands-free faucets to reduce water usage.

Hands-free paper towel dispensers may eventually be replaced to save paper, Enneking said.

Newer models of hand dryers cost much less to operate than the older models, said Craig Cherry, an energy consultant with DCS.

Light-emitting diodes will replace the lights in the east Capitol parking lot, Enneking said.

The change means a lower energy bill and a reduction in manpower needed to change bulbs, he said.

Plans call for buying cleaning and sanitation products that are more environmentally friendly, Enneking said.

The worst thing people can do is to continue doing things the same way, such as leaving the office without turning off the computer or

the lights, Cherry said.

"We have occupants who are very into this," said Richard Kitchen, a DCS energy manager. "A lot of people are ready to jump on board."

Bowman said "energy champions" in various agencies are working to increase efficiency and reduce waste.

"People don't intentionally have bad habits," Enneking said.

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