



MAKING YOUR FACILITY ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT REAPS REWARDS ALL ROUND

By Kent Waddington

You are sitting quietly at your desk, wondering how you will cover the shortfall in your budget from the increase in natural gas prices you experienced last year, when the phone rings. It's your boss. The conversation is short. You turn pale. You hang up!

The frightening news is... "We're going green, Ralphie old boy. Get on it!" Panic sets in. You know he doesn't mean he wants the walls repainted to match the cedars. He's talking about what so many Canadian health care facilities are turning to these days, a commitment to environmental friendliness. Specifically, actions and policies geared to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), improving energy efficiency, eliminating pollutants such as mercury and pesticides, and enhancing the quality of life for employees, patients and those in the surrounding communities they serve.

"Great. But where do I start?," you ask yourself.

It is easy to join the growing list of health service providers such as Cambridge Memorial Hospital (Cambridge, ON), Winnipeg Health Sciences (Winnipeg, MB), University of Alberta hospital (Edmonton, AB) and Rouge Valley Health (Toronto, ON) that have made a commitment to sound environmental practices.

The first step on your way to embracing environmental change, whether your building stock is new or old, is to check out Natural Resource Canada's (NRCan) Office of Energy Efficiency and their various tools, services and financial incentives. The Dollars to \$ense

workshops including "Spot The Energy Savings Opportunities", "Energy Monitoring and Tracking" and "Energy Master Plan" offered by NRCan are an excellent entry stage. Consisting of three one-day hands-on sessions, the workshops offer some of the most up-to-date energy expertise available at a very reasonable cost.

Over 3,500 registrants from organizations across Canada have been able to identify lower operating costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase operational efficiencies and create a healthier work environment by adopting the energy efficiency savings tips learned at the workshops.

Workshops specific to your individual facility or regional needs can

also be developed and delivered in an affordable and timely fashion. For more Dollars to \$ense workshop information contact NRCan at 1-613-996-6585 or <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/workshops>.

ENERGY INNOVATORS INITIATIVE (Innovators)

The Energy Innovators Initiative (Innovators) is a voluntary federal government initiative designed to help commercial businesses and public institutions explore energy efficiency options and strategies. Your health care organization can save money and help the environment at the same time. The initiative offers members access to an array of tools, services and finan-



Embracing the Environmental Challenge



cial incentives - delivered through an Energy Innovators Officer who will be assigned to work with you after you send in your letter of registration.

"Innovators" provides help in developing energy management plans for existing buildings, customized technical expertise, assistance in monitoring energy savings, advice on financing options for retrofit projects and opportunities to promote an organization's energy efficiency achievements. Look also to the Energy Innovators for advice on alternative financing options for retrofit projects, information on developments in energy-efficient technologies, newsletters, success stories and

other publications plus an opportunity to promote organizational achievements.

Energy Retrofit Assistance incentives of up to \$250,000 are available, which certainly makes Innovators worth investigating. This financial assistance is designed to stimulate the development, implementation and replication of new energy measures in existing buildings and represents part of the Government of Canada Action Plan on Climate Change announced in November 2001. For more information on services provided via the Energy Innovators Initiative, please contact Arlene Wilson, Energy Innovator Officer at 1-613-943-0647, awilson@nrcan.gc.ca or visit (<http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/eii/english/home.cfm>) to learn more.

Commercial Building Incentive Program (CBIP)

To help assure that any new health care building you are planning will have the least possible impact upon our fragile environment, while at the same time providing you with a healthy and energy-efficient facility, look to the Commercial Buildings Incentive Program (CBIP) at <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/cbip.htm>.

To qualify for up to \$60,000 in CBIP funding, applicants must clearly show that their new building is at least 25 percent more energy efficient than the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB). Buildings less than 4,645 square metres (50,000 square feet) may follow a predetermined prescription of energy efficiency criteria. Larger buildings can take advantage of NRCAN's new EE4 energy performance simulation software to show that the design meets or surpasses the 25 percent qualifying level. In many cases, bringing a design up to the standards will add little or nothing to the capital cost of the new building.

An increasing number of Canadian designers, architects and engineers have been following the trend of incorporating a high degree of energy efficiency into their designs from the start. Owners are also recognizing the

long-term financial and environmental benefits of lower operating costs, but are often reluctant to pursue advanced building design because of the perceived extra costs associated with energy-efficient designs. "This does not have to be the case: facilities that use 35 percent less energy at no additional capital cost are feasible," claims Murray Guy of Integrated Controls.

"We have to operate this facility in the long term, so we knew if we stuck to the criteria of CBIP, we would not only achieve long-term cost savings, but also an energy-efficient building. We would also be doing our part to be good stewards of our environment," said Deborah Hammons, Executive Director, Fairhaven (Peterborough ON).

With a little help from CBIP your new building can be a model of energy efficiency while also demonstrating your strong sense of ongoing commitment to fiscal and environmental responsibility.

An ever-increasing number of Canadian hospitals and health care facilities are seeing the merit in adopting a green, energy-efficient and environmentally responsible stance and are doing so with the assistance of Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency. They are setting up "green teams" and environmental committees, encouraging alternative travel (bicycles, car pools, etc.) among employees, adopting pesticide-free grounds, and commencing in-house employee awareness campaigns. Others are pledging their formal support to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 levels by joining the Energy Innovators Initiative of Natural Resources Canada.

Now, are you feeling better? At least you know where to start! ♣

Kent Waddington is the Energy Efficiency Coordinator for the Canadian College of Health Service Executives where he helps Canadian health care facilities turn energy dollars into health care dollars ... for a healthier planet. He can be reached at 1-613-756-0435 or kwaddington@cchse.org.