

> ALSO INSIDE CIRMA ANNOUNCES NEW HUMAN RESOURCES SUPPORT

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Mayors, Money, and Management

Helping Counties Meet Their Energy Efficiency Goals

by JEFFREY C. WALTER

PROJECT COORDINATOR, ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES, METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS

JOHN HADLEY, the director of Facilities Management for McHenry County in Woodstock, couldn't be happier with the inside air temperature of his vehicle storage and maintenance buildings – but this was not always the case.

Last winter, he realized that most of the heat inside his buildings was rising to the ceiling where it did little good to keep his crew members and equipment warm. “We realized we were wasting both heat and money trying to keep the buildings warm with the air stratification that was occurring,” Hadley explains. To fix the problem, he had de-stratification or “zoo” fans installed on the ceiling to blow warm air back down towards the floor, mixing the air so it's comfortable throughout the entire space. “The fans have eliminated wasteful overheating and will reduce our heating by 16 percent. That's a savings of almost \$3,000 per year.”

Three quarters of the cost McHenry County's \$13,000 project was funded by the Illinois Energy Now (IEN) Public



The McHenry County Vehicle Storage Garage, and a de-stratification fan on the ceiling (top); John Hadley, Director of Facilities Management, who oversaw the energy efficiency project (right).

Sector Energy Efficiency Program, administered by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The Mayors Caucus has partnered with 360 Energy Group, an experienced energy consulting company, to assist counties and other public sector agencies implement a wide range of projects to reduce their electrical and natural gas consumption, helping them meet and exceed their energy efficiency goals.

In the past three years, the Mayors Caucus has awarded more than

\$4.3 million of IEN incentives to implement more than 300 projects in 75 communities throughout Northeastern Illinois. Projects include boiler and chiller replacements, HVAC system tune-ups, heat distribution system upgrades, pipe insulation, indoor and outdoor lighting upgrades, and even several city-wide streetlight conversions to LED lighting.

A non-profit organization, the Mayors Caucus leverages its extensive experience serving the public sector to engage agencies in planning and implementing projects. In addition to receiving funding, participating public agencies also receive technical assistance from 360 Energy Group, which is provided for free with the program. 360EG streamlines the project process by assisting with projections, calculations, application paperwork, and project planning. 360EG also helps participants maximize their incentives by referring them to complimentary funding sources.

Public agencies interested in working with the Mayors Caucus and 360EG can visit www.mayorscaucus.org for more information. <

BEAT THE BLIZZARD GET YOUR BOILER READY FOR WINTER

Just like a car, your county's boiler system can benefit from a pre-winter service tune-up. The **Boiler System Efficiency Program** provides cost savings in natural gas consumption by implementing energy improvements to boilers. Incentives are available for boiler tune-ups, mechanical pipe insulation, steam trap repair or replacement, boiler reset controls, shut off air damper systems, and parallel positioning controls (PPC) systems. All of these measures yield great savings. On average, a boiler tune-up results in a 1-5 percent efficiency gain, which means a return on investment within six months in most cases.

Funding is also available for steam trap assessments.

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