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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL SERVICES REDUCES ENERGY USE IN STATE BUILDINGS

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Department of Central Services (DCS) announced today that sustainability projects in State-operated buildings reduced total energy consumption by 19% from August to December 2008 compared with these months in the previous year. During this time, DCS projects yielded an average monthly difference of 3.8% per month and these trends are expected to continue all year.

“As public servants, it is imperative for state agencies to operate in the most efficient manner possible,” indicated Mike Enneking, Director of Facilities Management. “...through the stewardship of resources and sustainability projects, DCS is making it possible for state-operated buildings to meet efficiency standards while contributing to a cleaner environment,” Enneking said.

The DCS Office of Facilities Management (OFM) has developed a Sustainability Plan to ensure State buildings operate with maximum efficiency and minimal environmental impact. Through the cooperation of the Department of Human Services (DHS), a major project is already underway that will renovate a building located at 50 N.E. 23rd St. in Oklahoma City. When the project is complete, the building will feature a state of the art Building Management System (BMS), geothermal heating/cooling system, new lighting with light harvesting capabilities, a 10 kWh wind turbine, highly-reflective roofing, and photo-voltaic (PV) solar panels. The windows and insulation will also be upgraded to ensure an Energy Star-worthy building envelope.

“DCS is making it easier for people to participate,” Enneking said. “These projects are cutting consumption behind the scenes, but it’s the support of individuals that will have a lasting effect,” he added.

To encourage participation of building occupants and other agencies, DCS established the Green Fingerprint energy awareness campaign. The campaign aims to further decrease energy use in State buildings through the education/training of tenants in energy-related matters. An important initiative of the campaign is a light bulb exchange where building occupants are provided energy-saving Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs to replace high-wattage, incandescent bulbs.

Other energy-saving projects include: the installation of low-flow urinals and toilets which will annually save 1.1 million gallons of water campus-wide, installation of new controls and sensors along with using new programming strategies with the BMS, the replacement of T-12 fluorescent light tubes with efficient T-8 tubes, and a de-lamping process which removed unnecessary light bulbs from many fixtures in common areas. DCS is continuing to work with legislators and other State agencies to develop more sustainability-promoting projects. “Energy conservation is a collective responsibility; the long term success of our energy conservation efforts requires the contributions of everyone,” said John Richard, Director of the Department of Central Services.

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