



Thursday, March 20, 2003

Energy Web site seeks to inform, educate

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

In this period of economic recession and steadily rising utilities rates, Oakland University is taking steps to contain these costs while providing high-quality energy services. To help increase awareness and help the campus community become more involved in energy issues, Facilities Management recently launched a new **Energy Management** Web site.

Site visitors will find useful information on how the university spends \$3-4 million each year to heat, cool and power the institution. Other information includes an overview of west campus energy costs and usage for the past 10 years, energy conservation projects, the upcoming utility metering system, the photovoltaic solar power system, and the university heating and cooling policy. Tips also are given on how you can reduce your computer system's energy consumption.

"The site is meant not to just inform the campus community of steps we are taking to conserve energy but also to educate," said OU Energy Manager Jim Liedel, who assembled the information placed on the site. "The biggest goal is to get faculty, staff and students involved in energy issues and conservation projects on campus. A lot of people care about energy use with regard to the environment and things like global warming, but not many people are concerned about cost. I'm in a position where I have to be concerned about costs and keeping them down.

"On the Web site, I want to present whatever information I can to get people interested in learning about energy costs and give them a behind-the-scenes look at what we're doing to contain them. We want to present information in a nice and approachable way and make it useful to the campus community."

For more information on measures the university is taking to control expenditures, see the cost-containment section on the **2003-2004 Budget Development Process** Web site.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, March 20, 2003

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, March 20, 2003

Article Start Date: Monday, October 13, 2003