Choctaw Nation HELP (Healthy Energy Living Project)

Tracy Horst *Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma "Sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth."*



Choctaw Nation Introduction

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma covers 11,299 square miles in southeastern Oklahoma and serves over 205,000 members worldwide.
- The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority is a member of the Indian Health Services system and maintains a hospital and 7 outpatient clinics located throughout SE OK.
- Our hospital is 145,000 sq ft with 37 inpatient beds and 52 exam rooms.
- Began funding conservation measures through Department of Energy Grant in 2009
 - Hired Energy Manager
 - Began completing facility audits
 - Identified and initiated facility retrofits

Our Energy Conservation History

- Evaluation of conservation measures
- Initiated conservation retrofits:
 - HVAC, lighting and window replacement, additional insulation
- Initiated facility energy audits
- New Buildings are being constructed with efficient lighting, windows, etc.



Building Retrofits to Date



- Hospital and one Clinic & 3 small facilities
 - Light bulb replacement/reduction; occupancy sensors
- Durant Headquarters Facility
 - Window replacement, light bulb replacement and reduction, vending machine misers, occupancy sensors
- Gaming Facilities
 - 8 buildings (various sizes)
 - Light bulb replacement / reduction; occupancy sensors
- 7 Community Centers
 - Light bulb replacement

Facility Audits

- Audits include a review of:
 - Previous 12 months of all utility billing
 - Building and construction type and building layout
 - Internal load lighting, refrigeration, cooking/office equipment, number of people
 - Other loads outdoor security and parking lights, motor loads, hot water heating
 - HVAC system and duct work
 - Thermostat settings
 - Insulation
 - Utility rates



Benefits of Program

- Awareness / Education of Tribal Members, Employees and Local Communities for energy conservation methods
 - Employee Training Sessions
 - Through Newspaper articles to local communities / members
 - Sharing of Results
- Environment: reduce energy consumption



CSC Grant Initiatives

- 1) Install energy efficient lighting in our hospital and our out-patient clinics
- 2) Conduct on-going education for our employees and tribal members to reduce energy usage
- 3) Disseminate a White Paper detailing the process and success of the project
- 4) Produce and circulate a DVD emphasizing the success of the project and energy reduction education to conserve energy
- 5) Earth Day is Every Day Youth Event

CSC Grant Results

- Able to retrofit the interior hospital lighting, hospital entrance canopy and the parking lot lighting as well as two small clinics on site in Talihina, OK and a larger clinic and drug refill center in Poteau, OK
 - ✓ Reduced kilowatt hour usage by 400,000 kwh/year
 - ✓ Estimated dollar savings of \$21,500.
 - ✓ Greenhouse Gas reductions were 292 MT CO₂, 1,439 lbs of SO₂ and 888 lbs of NOx

Grant Continuation Plans

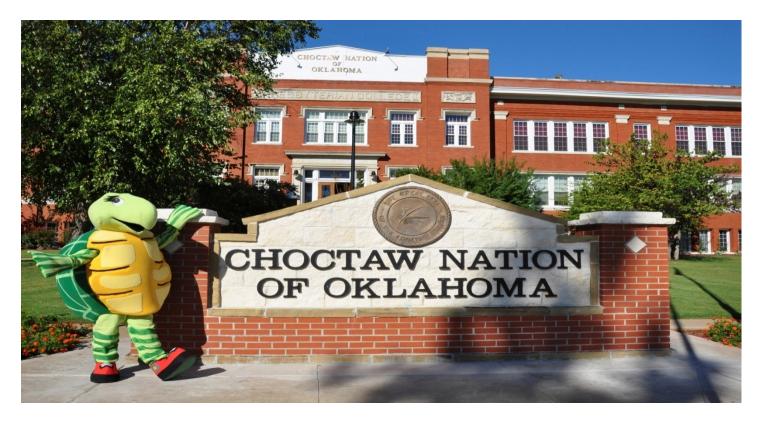


- The DOE grant has ended and our EPA grant is coming to an end as well. With no on-going funding we have created the following strategy to continue the program:
 - 1) Prioritize facilities that need the most assistance based on energy consumption
 - 2) Consider utility rebates available... Light retrofit, occupancy sensors, etc
 - 3) If energy savings is significant and rebates are available we can complete retrofits for minimal or no cost to the tribe
 - 4) The new program purchases the retrofit supplies and in most cases the facility completes the retrofit with own labor.
 - 5) Rebates are submitted and go back into the Building Conservation fund along with a 25% annualized savings 'fee'
 - 6) The savings are based upon documented usage and expected reduction
 - 7) The combination of the rebates and the savings fee allows the program to continue to complete projects

Other Environmental Initiatives

- Recycling has become a strong point for the tribe. Prior to our opening a public recycling facility in Durant, OK in December, 2010 there was no place to recycle within our 11,300 sq mile area.
 - Today we recycle all types of paper and cardboard, plastics 1, 2 and 5, aluminum and steel/tin cans, Styrofoam, printer cartridges and electronic waste.
 - In 2012, we have recycled over 1,500,000 pounds of material.
- Early January, 2013 we expect to open a second recycling facility in Poteau, OK.
- Also have adopted 10 miles of highway for clean up/wildflower planting, adopted numerous parks for clean up, conducted recycling events for general materials and electronic waste
- Conducted used toy drives at Christmas

Questions??



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