Going Green

Going Green

The City of Atlantic Beach is committed to environmental sustainability. Through grant programs, policies and initiatives, the City is continually striving to improve its own environmental performance and has taken several steps towards finding innovative ways to help save energy. Recent accomplishments include:

Public Safety Department

• Purchased seven hybrid vehicles and one electric Chevy Volt for the Police Department. In 2011, the hybrid vehicles reduced gasoline consumption by over 2,000 gallons which provided an annual cost savings of approximately $7,000. The Chevy Volt is estimated to use at least 500 gallons less per year than a conventional vehicle resulting in an annual savings of approximately $1,750.

Information Technology Department

• All computers purchased by the City in the past seven years were manufactured by Dell Corporation and qualify for the Energy Star rating.

• For the past two years, the City has used Creative Recycling Systems, Inc. (CSR) to dispose of its electronic equipment. CRS shreds and separates electronics into their original material of plastics, steel, aluminum, precious metals and glass. They remove monitors and printers at no cost and pay the City for each laptop and workstation.

Public Utilities Department

- Replacement of HVAC system at Water Plant #2 with a high-efficiency unit
- Installation of programmable thermostats on HVAC systems at two facilities
- City implemented an anti-idling policy for city vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and generation of air pollution
- Equipped trucks with LED emergency lights so they would not have to idle while lights are in use
- Retrofit office/building lights at Water Treatment Plants with energy saving fixtures/bulbs
- Nitrogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project.
  - Reduction of electrical usage with redesign and more efficient equipment; estimated cost savings of $72,800.
  - Reduction of electrical usage by eliminating Wastewater Treatment Plant; estimated cost savings of $155,000.
  - Reduce fuel usage by eliminating hauling of sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 to Wastewater Treatment Plant #1; estimated savings is approximately 1,000 gallons per year.
  - Removing nitrogen from effluent discharged to St. Johns River; estimated pounds removed are approximately 61,000 pounds per year.

Public Works Department

• Lighting Upgrades. Upgraded old fluorescent light fixtures, switched incandescent fixtures to CLFs and installed motion sensors in several rooms.

• Placed a scrap metals recycling container in the Public Works Yard for collection of old parts, fire hydrants, etc. Recycling firm pays the City a cost based on weight of metal collected. One load has been picked-up resulting in a $900 payment to the City.

• HVAC units replaced as part of Energy Grant. Installed reflective heat film on windows.

• Diverted marine grade material remnants (piles, etc) from Tideviews dock construction from landfill to use in the Oceanside Rotary Skate Park retaining wall. Estimated cost savings to the City is $2,000.

• Pollution Prevention.
  - Constructed Jordan Park Community Center parking lot using pervious concrete to reduce stormwater runoff.
  - Constructed pervious vehicle washing area in Public Works Yard to reduce runoff to Stormwater treatment facility.
  - Substantial increase in number of doggy bag stations (parks, beach accesses, etc) to reduce fecal runoff into stormwater.

Parks Division

• Replaced outdoor floodlights with CFL equivalents or LED fixtures. Jack Russell Park ball field lighting was upgraded as part of energy grant.

• Purchased GEM LSEV for use by Park Rangers in 2009 for $2,500. Estimated savings of 850 gallons of fuel.

• Purchased collapsible recycle collection stands for use at City sponsored events.

Other accomplishments:

• Conversion of City records to electronic format to improve accessibility and minimize the space and energy needed in City facilities to store them.

• Use of rechargeable batteries

Finding a way to reduce energy costs in the future just makes good sense.