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PRESS RELEASE

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At Yavapai County Government, we take energy efficiency and water conservation seriously and are continually striving to reduce energy and water usage in a variety of ways. Many of our County buildings have modern building management systems that allow us to provide maximized energy efficiency and employee comfort. Improvements made in 2013 to the Camp Verde Superior Court HVAC system alone reduced our energy costs by an average of 28%. A large scale HVAC upgrade at the Prescott Courthouse in 2014 improved air quality and energy savings in that building and resulted in an APS rebate of \$3,500. Over the past three years, Facilities employees have replaced over 133 tons of HVAC units that were inefficient and beyond their life cycle with new energy efficient units at the Cottonwood Verde Valley Services building and Camp Verde Detention Center. The 2014 installation of Yavapai County’s first solar field next to the Camp Verde Detention Center and solar panels on parking canopies at the Camp Verde Superior Court is expected to generate a total of 1.2 million kilowatt hours annually and reduce the cost of electricity by more than \$500,000 over 20 years. Additionally, new roofs for various County buildings are made of modern energy saving reflective materials that protect our buildings and reduce heating and cooling costs. Our focus on energy garnered recognition for Yavapai County by APS as one of only four counties in Arizona in 2013 who implemented energy saving projects with APS Solutions for Business.

In addition to the items mentioned above, Facilities employees started installing long life energy saving LED light fixtures throughout the County in 2015. This is an energy saving project that reduces kilowatt hour (KWH) costs as well as earning APS rebates of 20% which will produce annual savings that will pay for the total investment in four years. LED lighting has a life span of 10-20 years, resulting in reduced maintenance labor, a reduction in light bulb disposal fees, and the benefit of being environmentally friendly. We replaced the parking lot lights at Prescott Community Health Services and

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the Cottonwood Verde Valley Services building for a savings of 28,000 KWH per year equaling \$3000 in savings per parking lot. We also replaced 300 interior lamps at the Prescott Juvenile Justice Center at a cost of \$5400 and received an APS rebate of \$4500.

For water savings, we have installed 1.6 gallon, auto flush bathroom fixtures in numerous locations, including the upgraded exterior restrooms at the Prescott Courthouse. These fixtures not only save water but also improve overall hygiene. We also implemented water conservation at the Prescott Courthouse Plaza through the introduction of efficient MP rotator sprinkler heads. MP rotator is a revolutionary alternative to traditional sprinkler heads and pop up sprinkler heads that spray the landscape. MP rotator nozzles feature unique, multi-trajectory rotating streams that deliver water at a steady rate. This slower rate allows water to gently soak in at rates that soils can absorb for water savings of up to 30%. The irrigation systems at surrounding County buildings have also been updated with newer more efficient valves; and irrigation emitters have been changed and or plugged to prevent water wasting. Timers have been set to run at the most efficient times to water. We also replaced the lawn at Prescott Community Health Services with non-thirsty xeriscape landscaping which is in use at the majority of County locations.

Additionally, we have rainwater harvesting systems at two County buildings with another one to be installed at the new Paulden Library now under construction. The rainwater collection system at the Prescott Commerce Annex consists of two 1700 gallon tanks for a total of 3400 gallons. The rainwater collection system at Cottonwood Community Health Services consists of three 1700 gallon tanks for a total of 5100 gallons. The irrigation systems at these locations always pull water from the tanks and so they utilize a valve and float sensor to keep the tanks only one quarter full with potable water from the public water system. This allows the tanks to hold up to 2550 gallons of rainwater collected from the roof of the Prescott Commerce Annex and up to 3825 gallons of rainwater collected from the roof of Cottonwood Community Health Services. The rainwater collections system for the Paulden Library will consist of 900 gallons stored in three separate tanks. These tanks will gravity feed a connected hose and will be used to supplement the regular irrigation system.

All of the aforementioned efforts have been instrumental in reducing utility costs at County facilities. We have seen steady overall reduction in utility usage every year from 2012 through the present after implementation of our energy saving measures. We have been able to offset increases in the costs of kilowatt hours and water rates by decreasing our usage substantially. Facilities office employees proactively monitor all utility bills from month to month in order to spot irregularities or spikes in usage that may need to be investigated. Whenever possible, we also negotiate rate reductions. One such reduction was in the cost of propane which, along with a small reduction in usage, resulted in a cost savings at the Medical Examiner's Office in Prescott Valley of \$18,500 in 2016 over the same six month period in 2015. This was only one building. We have approximately five more buildings that use propane and benefitted from this reduction in propane rates.

Our Custodial Division Supervisors are also looking for ways to cut costs and, at the same time, "go green". We recently started testing an aqueous ozone anti-microbial system that, used with ordinary tap water, works faster and is more effective against pathogens than chlorine bleach. This is a natural, sustainable cleaning system that will allow us to reduce or completely eliminate the use of harsh and expensive cleaning chemicals. This green system has been tested in County buildings with excellent results; no odor, completely sanitizing, nontoxic to staff and building materials, and

effective against mold and mildew. Each cartridge costs under \$200 and will produce 800 gallons of cleaner per cartridge compared to select cleaning chemicals which can cost \$50 to \$75 per gallon. The water cost and cartridge replacement is approximately 5% of the current cost per gallon of harsh chemicals. The cartridges are also recycled by the supplier so there is no landfill waste.

Examples such as these are the result of our ongoing employee training and communication to proactively look for cost cutting opportunities that will save taxpayer dollars and reduce energy and water usage.

For further information, contact Mary Conner at (928) 771-3200.

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