

NEWS RELEASE



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NATURE OF STORY: Conservation Efforts at the Lane County Jail

LOCATION: 101 W 5th Avenue - Eugene, OR

DETAILS:

The Lane County Jail is undergoing several energy saving changes that are expected to save between \$175,000 and \$182,000 annually.

A recent project involving replacing old florescent lights, with new energy efficient lights alone will save an estimated \$18,700 per year.

The replacement of old electric motors, with new energy efficient motors will save up to an additional \$29,000 annually. Enough energy will be saved by this improvement alone to power 280 residences for a month or 23 residences for the entire year.

Due to chiller system failing during this past summer, the chiller units are being replaced. New high efficiency chillers are being installed that will save an estimated \$7,100 per year.

The biggest savings will be realized through the construction of a steam replacement plant that will eliminate the steam currently being purchased. The annual energy savings expected from the Jail heating its own water without using steam is estimated to be between \$120,000 and \$141,000. Construction began on the steam replacement plant last week.

The energy saved through these projects will significantly reduce the jail's carbon footprint. The money saved will be used to pay for the improvements. The approximate total cost of all of these projects is approximately four million dollars. The cost of the project is being covered as follows:

- \$500,000 has been received from Federal/State grants.
- \$2.695 million will be paid over the next 20 years through our energy savings.
- \$806,000 for the chillers is being paid for from the Capital Improvement Fund.

It should be noted that at our current pace, the steam replacement plant construction will come in under cost.

In addition to the above energy savings, for approximately the past two years, the jail has been engaging in environmentally friendly practices by recycling all cardboard, tin, aluminum and plastic used in operations. Additionally, the cleaning products that are used are biodegradable and most paper products are either made from recycled paper, and or sugar cane pulp.

For follow up on this story please contact Lt. Larry Brown at (541) 682-2264