



News Release

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City employees setting good example in “sustainability”

The city of Branson and its employees are taking the lead and setting good examples for going green, and in the process, saving taxpayers’ dollars.

Branson Environmental Specialist Mona Menezes recently presented the [2011 Sustainability Update](#) to the Board of Aldermen on employees’ efforts, and how those efforts are paying off for the city.

- The city will purchase its first fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle.
- The city has implemented its first energy services contract at an expected savings of about \$34,000 per year. City Hall’s lighting expenses are projected to decline by 13% and consumption is being reduced by 14% at a projected savings to the city of more than \$500,000 over a 15-year period.
- The bulk of public documents have been posted on the city’s website realizing more savings on printing and paper costs this year plus savings in time and manpower while giving the public quicker and easier access to information.
- Utilities department purchased energy efficient air blowers for the sewer plants that have led to \$15,000 in energy savings this year, and the installation of skylights has meant less energy use at sewer facilities.
- Firefighters at Fire Station #2 now grow their own produce for their meals at the station.
- The city has grown more than 10,000 plants in the parks and recreation greenhouse to be used at city facilities and parks, along with recycling more than 25,000 plastic bottles and 25 truckloads of cardboard all through the parks department.
- More than \$67,000 in grant money for the parks and recreation department funded new LED lights at the RecPlex, resulting in an estimated permanent savings of \$6,635 per year.

- Public works recycled grindings from pavement milling to pave roads to sewer lift stations. This saved the city \$116,545 in 2011.
- The city created an internal on-line virtual supply cabinet where furniture, equipment and supplies no longer needed by one department can be picked up and used by another department.

City Administrator Dean Kruithof created and chairs a Sustainability Council comprised of representatives from each of the city's departments that meets monthly to share green ideas and discuss initiatives implemented in their departments. The council also presents awards to employees who achieve savings through green projects.