



Department of City Development
News Release

November 8, 2005

MAYOR ORDERS 11% CUT IN CITY HALL ENERGY USE URGES CITIZENS TO WEATHERIZE, SEEK ASSISTANCE

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett today ordered an 11% cut in city hall energy use by 2006 and urged citizens to weatherize their homes to keep heating bills down in a year when costs are expected to rise by 61%. Barrett also asked residents to help spread the word to low-income families and seniors to apply now for energy assistance.

According to the Social Development Commission, 65,000 families in Milwaukee County are eligible for energy assistance. So far only 13,000 have signed up for the program. Several low-income families live in older homes and, without proper weatherizing, drafts and leaks can chill the air and drive up heating bills. Energy assistance programs operated by the Social Development Commission and La Causa frequently offer weatherization help, in addition to assistance with energy bills.

"We must get the word out to Milwaukee residents that they need to take steps now to help keep their heating bills from becoming a crisis in spring," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "Energy assistance centers can help, so can weather-stripping, caulk and plastic over the windows. Studies by the U.S. Department on Energy show that weatherization can reduce heating bills by 31%."

In its soon-to-be released report to Mayor Barrett, the Milwaukee Green Team offered the City of Milwaukee a 'quick win' by suggesting WE Energies audit energy use at city hall and identify ways city operations can cut its energy bill. Based on the audit, Mayor Barrett directed the following:

Install vending misers – vending machines in the city hall complex run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The vending misers time the machine operations according to the hours of operation.

Remove existing electric heat – employees will be asked to remove their personal electric space heaters from their workspace.

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Install daylight optimization controls – turns off space lighting when it is not needed due to sufficient daylight. Daylight trackers measure light levels and turn off some lights when they are not needed. A second system (occupancy sensors) determines if there is someone in the space or not. When nobody is in the space, the light turns off. A third system turns off selected lighting and other electrical loads when the complex is consuming too much electricity.

Install a variable frequency drive on the HVAC distribution pump- variable frequency drives use only the amount of energy to deliver heated and/or cooled air to a space.

Install economizer controls that make use of outside air supply – these controls maximize use of outside air supply when a building requires cooling and the outside air is cooler than the air in the building.

Install carbon dioxide sensors- the sensors turn on air delivery systems when space conditions reach design limit. Exhaust fans and other HVAC equipment turn on or increase the volume of air movement when somebody is in the space. A relatively new energy innovation is to use the existing lighting occupancy sensors to turn on variable air volume systems. The City of Milwaukee is experimenting with this concept now.

The above changes will result in a savings of about \$55,000 off of the city's 2006 energy bill. The city hall complex electric bill for the past 12 months is \$573,886.

"I encourage all Milwaukee residents to audit their own homes and learn about weatherization to cut their heating bills at a time when money is tight and heating costs are on the rise," said Mayor Tom Barrett.

The Milwaukee Green Team will recommend further initiatives to reduce energy use by 15% in 2012. Mayor Barrett is expected to issue the Milwaukee Green Team 'city plan' in an upcoming speech on November 21st. The key objectives of Mayor Barrett's Milwaukee Green Team are to reduce and manage stormwater, create smart energy policy and stimulate job creation and a green economy.

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Social Development Energy Assistance Program: (414) 906-2800

Energy Assistance Program Site Locations

Social Development Commission
4041 N. Richards St.

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. by appointment

Energy Assistance Program Site Locations Continued

Marcia P. Coggs Human Service Center
1220 Vliet Street
Mon. – Fri 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Hmong American Friendship Association
3824 W. Vliet St
Mon – Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SDC Southside Center
931 W. Madison Ave
Mon- Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. by appointment

UMOS Milwaukee Job Center- South
910 W. Mitchell St.
Tues & Thurs 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(until 3/6/06)

Beulah Britton Community Center
2555 S. Bay St.
Fridays 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.
(until 4/15/06)

Bay View Community Center
1320 E. Oklahoma Ave
Mon & Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(until 4/15/06)

Maximus – Northwest
6550 N. 76th Street
Mon – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

UMOS Milwaukee Job Center –North
4030 N. 29th Street
Tues 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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