

# Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Update to State Agency Energy Savings Plan

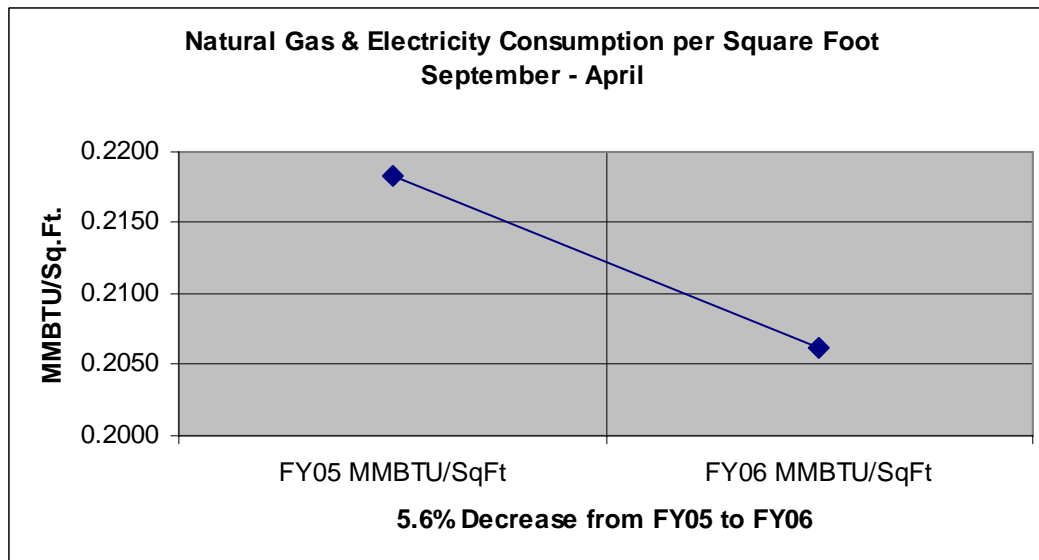
July 2006

## *A. TWC Energy Consumption Update*

### **Electricity and Natural Gas**

With Executive Order RP-49, TWC established a goal to reduce electric and natural gas energy consumption (reported as MMBTUs/sq. ft.) by 2% per year for the next 5 years. TWC is pleased to report a decrease of 5.6% in energy consumption for the period of September 2005 –April 2006 compared to the same period last year.

TWC believes that energy conservation efforts and the installation of energy efficient systems and equipment have significantly contributed to our consumption decrease. TWC is realizing a consistent and sustained decrease in consumption in the majority of our buildings statewide.



### **Gasoline**

TWC established a goal to reduce its gasoline consumption by 2% per year until all fleet vehicles that could reasonably be converted to alternative fuels are converted. TWC is pleased to report that it has downsized its fleet from 17 to 16 vehicles, making 90% of TWC's fleet either capable of using alternative fuels (propane) or, due to size, waived from the alternative fuels requirement. Unfortunately, TWC's gasoline consumption increased 18%, or 196 gallons, (September 05-April 06) over usage for the same eight-month period the previous year. While TWC's fuel usage currently is not trending to meet established gasoline consumption goals, TWC reduced its *overall* consumption of fuels (gasoline, diesel and propane) by 754 gallons, or 15.1%, compared to the same period last year.

Gasoline consumption spiked due to an increased number of propane tank leaks and length of time TWC had to rely on gasoline while propane tanks were being repaired. Because TWC's fleet vehicles are aging, their older, propane retrofitted systems are no longer easily supported. This may continue to increase our number and length of propane-related repairs until we can further reduce or replace certain fleet vehicles with newer vehicles.

***B. Update on Planned FY06 Initiatives to Increase TWC Consumption Goals***

- TWC has initiated eight of the nine capital facility projects so far this fiscal year that will have a positive impact on conservation efforts.
- TWC has continued its practice of educating and making all employees aware of our "Turn it off policy" through agency e-mail.
- TWC is moving to a consolidated appliance strategy and has eliminated the purchase of personal appliances such as space heaters and refrigerators for individual use.
- TWC has purchased and installed fifty motion sensors to date this year.
- TWC has not yet piloted a performance contract, but is investigating this possibility.
- TWC continues to monitor utility bills in order to identify and investigate where staff finds higher than expected usage levels.
- With the recent contract award to LBP Energy Consulting, TWC is participating in the energy management services provider statewide contract.

***C. Additional ideas the agency has for reducing energy expenditures***

- If feasible, use laptop computers where possible, as they consume 90 percent less energy than desktop computers.
- Install time clocks, set-back thermostats, and microprocessor thermostats to monitor HVAC systems when buildings are unoccupied.
- Install intermittent ignition devices on gas furnaces to save gas.
- During the winter, open shades and blinds on sunny days to warm buildings naturally, and close them at night to prevent heat loss.

***D. Additional ideas to minimize fuel usage of all vehicles***

- Consider replacing aging agency vehicles with hybrid electric/gasoline vehicles or motorized carts to perform campus facility services.