

The Transporter

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING *Energy efficient efforts*

Norman Wells Airport staff reduce energy consumption

Collective efforts and a desire to conserve are leading Norman Wells Airport to greener pastures

This is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles on energy efficiency within our department. Have you made efforts to reduce emissions or save energy? The Transporter wants to hear about it.

Staff at Norman Wells Airport are saving dollars and reducing emissions with their Energy Usage Tracking Program.

The program, which monitors energy usage through a database that compares energy costs against weather conditions, has been running since 2002 and is proving to be a very effective method of reducing energy usage at the airport.

"I would say in 2006 we saved over \$8,000 on electricity and heating fuel alone," says Norman Wells Airport Manager, Daniel Michaud.

"That figure isn't including measures we take to reduce vehicle fuel usage and the programs we have in place for cost recovery from tenants at the airport."

Since the database was created the continued monitoring of monthly costs has helped airport staff identify a number of things they can do to make better use of energy.

"There were all kinds of things," Daniel says. "Whenever we noticed a spike in the costs we would find what caused it and make sure to be conscious of that in the future."

Airport staff pinpointed energy waste from a number of areas. They identified simple things like the cleaner leaving all the building lights on at night and more complex issues such as airplanes using external plug-ins on airport buildings.

Reminding staff to turn lights off when not needed was the simple solution to that issue.

The plug-ins needed a more innovative solution. Implementing



Norman Wells Airport Manager, Daniel Michaud checks a socket adapter. The adapters, one of the many energy conservation initiatives at the airport, are reducing emissions and utility costs.

a socket adapter system that prevents anyone who has not rented an adapter from using power that would be charged to the airport has solved the problem and has created positive spin-offs.

Monthly rental fees from the

records we found that using one model of runway sweeper versus another created significant savings," says Daniel.

Along with keeping the sweeper that uses more gas in the garage when possible, staff have noticed

possible.

"We're noticing savings because staff really want to save energy," says Daniel.

"Our foreman, Nathan Watson, and all the airport staff have taken a proactive approach to the energy program."

Daniel adds that many the recent improvements at the Norman Wells Airport, including ongoing renovations to bring the air terminal building up to a more economical level of operation, wouldn't be possible without the help of the Airports Division and their facilities staff.

"Efforts like the one at the Norman Wells Airport are important to the overall energy efficiency program for the department," says Assistant Deputy Minister Daniel Auger, who oversees the department's Energy Conservation Program.

"The progress in Norman Wells is a step in the right direction and should be an example to the rest of our department."

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Daniel Auger - Assistant Deputy Minister

socket adapter program are used to offset the cost of power used by tenants and cover the cost of administering the Energy Usage Tracking Program.

Accuracy of the information airport staff can withdraw from the database is the reason it works so well. Details they can compare are creating savings in areas that may not have come to mind otherwise.

"From keeping detailed fuel

other small improvements that add to big savings. Daniel even noticed that using their diesel snowblower instead of the gas model would reduce consumption. Now staff only use the gasoline powered snowblower in emergencies.

He also says staff are developing habits that lead to increased savings, such as closing doors quickly to save heat and leaving equipment in the garage whenever

SAFETY TIP *Fuel efficient driving is safe driving*

Fuel efficient driving habits are more than a matter of saving on fuel cost; they also help protect the health of your family and friends. Adopting fuel efficient driving habits will prevent smog and greenhouse gasses, save money, and keep our environment healthy. Practice good driving habits, keep a good attitude and follow these tips:

Make gradual starts and stops. Jackrabbit starts use more fuel than gradual starts.

Never speed. Fuel economy and the safety of you and your family are dramatically reduced when you travel above the speed limit.

Plan for bad weather. When driving in deep snow try to keep your wheels in existing ruts for

better fuel economy.

Have it delivered. If you need something you don't always have to warm up your vehicle and go get it yourself. Call the store or supplier and ask if they deliver.

Maintain your vehicle. Regular maintenance will keep your vehicle running at optimum efficiency, reducing emissions.

Keep your tires properly inflated. Maintaining proper tire pressure is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce your fuel consumption. Keep a tire gauge in your glovebox and check your pressure once a week.

Follow these tips to keep our environment clean and protect your family's health and save money.

North Slave 2006 Long Service Awards

Held in Yellowknife December 8 2006, the Long Service Awards recognized employees from the Department of Transportation for commitment over the years

2006 Recipients:

5 years: Rodney Hildebrandt, Pauleen Hogan, Peg Embleton, Bobbie-JoWalsh, Mary-Anne Digness, James Pickering, Bob Powless and Paul Guy

10 Years: Sigrun Geirsdottir, Rob Thom, Darlene Lansdown, Peter Praetzel, Pat Fowler, Garry Snyder, David Hessdorfer, Gregory Irvine, Werner Klinger, Edward Kokoszka, Steve Loutitt, Curtis Mercredi, Lewis Riviere, Ronald Ross, Lilly Taotuk, Charles Bourassa, Jean Dickau, Ben Webber, Daniel Auger and Russ Head

15 Years: Doug Krause, Eric Baecker, Tony Plant, William Chapple, John Currie, Nigel Moorhouse, Wayne Overbo and Michael Conway



Minister of Transportation Kevin Menicoche, Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf and 2006 Long Service Award recipients at the presentation ceremony held in Yellowknife.

20 Years: Greg Cousineau, Cathy Bilan and Kathy Green

Green, Shelly Hodges, Howard Mckay, Richard Menard and Richard Bonnetrouge

30 Years: Allen Hartman and Ernest Constant

25 Years: Martina Simons, Daryl

Congratulations to all recipients.

Hay River Airport hosts community airfield maintenance training

Community airport maintenance personnel from around the NWT gathered in Hay River on February 7 for a week-long Community Airport Maintenance course.

The intensive training, which is administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) School of Community Government, covered all aspects of airfield winter maintenance, from snow removal procedures and surface maintenance to airport regulations and security.

Seven students attended from Nanhanni Butte, Fort Liard, Wekweeti, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Good Hope and Tulita.

“All the students were very well supported by Kelly O’Connor and the Hay River Airport staff,” says Ben Webber, Assistant Director,

Programs and Standard, Airports Division.

“All the guys who attended the course made up a card and sent it down to the Hay River Airport staff thanking them for their hospitality.”

The course is directly funded by the Airports Division and consists of four days of in-class preparation covering technical knowledge and theory. The in-class sessions are followed by three days of practical training on the Hay River Airport’s secondary runway using equipment and practicing the techniques learned during the classroom sessions.

“The Hay River Airport staff are really good to us when we are there,” says Senior Researcher Airports, Maintenance and Works for MACA, Ralph Sanguéz, who was also the instructor at the course



Community airport maintenance personnel from all over the NWT gathered at the Hay River Airport to learn new techniques and practice their skills

this February.

“The fact that we are using their equipment and they are there to answer questions about the equipment or techniques really meant a lot to the students.”

This is the third year the course has been held, with the Department of Transportation and MACA working together to train community airport personnel and improve service at airports throughout the North. **T**

DM’s Dues



This month I would like to acknowledge the following employees for their hard work and contributions:

Congratulations to all recipients of the 2006 Long Service Awards presented in December in Yellowknife. We recognize the valuable knowledge these people add to our organization and thank them for their commitment and dedication during their years of service.

Staff from Issuing Offices, Corporate Services and Road Licensing and Safety should be commended for the success of the new Driver’s Licence and General Identification Card issuing process. After a steep learning curve and efforts to raise public awareness of the new program, issuing office staff are providing a very efficient and customer friendly level of service.

Thank you to everyone who worked to obtain funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Development for the Tliche winter road realignment study. This will be the the foundation on which further work and progress in improving road access in the Tliche region will be built.

Norman Wells and Hay River airport staff deserve mention for their continued efforts to monitor and reduce energy use at their facilities. We can all learn from the proactive measures they have taken which are leading to real results in the form of dollars saved and emissions reduced. There are many other airports and camps making positive contributions to the Energy Conservation Program. I look forward to them sharing their stories.

Finally, I would like to recognize all Department of Transportation staff for their commitment to monitor and control operational costs. Over the past few months department staff have taken measures that have been effective in maintaining expenditure control.