



Energy Managers find **UTILITY SAVINGS** through **GREEN CHANGES**

By Manitoba Hydro

A new program offered by Manitoba Hydro helps school divisions and building operators find savings opportunities in their facilities, and contribute to a cleaner environment. The *Power Smart Energy Manager Program*, launched in March 2008, provides information, training and support for Manitoba school divisions to hire dedicated Energy Managers.

Although the program targets school divisions, Manitoba Hydro invites commercial building operators from other types of buildings and facilities to participate in upcoming Energy Manager training sessions this fall.

“Engaging in energy conservation has many benefits – it lowers utility and maintenance costs, improves building comfort and helps the environment,” says **Nancy Stroich**, Marketing Specialist, Manitoba Hydro. “An Energy Manager actively manages and minimizes energy costs through operational improvements and behavioural changes at your facilities. The role of an Energy Manager can be assumed by building operators, maintenance managers or anyone who manages the energy, water and waste systems in your buildings.”

“With minimal investment, a business gains an on-site individual who

is dedicated to realizing and maintaining long-term savings,” says Stroich. “These savings can be redirected to further efficiency upgrades, or in the case of school divisions, towards specific education-related needs.”

The first step to becoming an Energy Manager is training. Manitoba Hydro offers a four-day training course in Winnipeg, in November 2008 for school divisions and other commercial customers interested in reducing energy consumption.

“During training, participants will learn the practical skills, action items and opportunities that can reduce consumption and save your business money – up to 20% on



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Typical tasks of an Energy Manager:

- Ensure that all mechanical and electrical systems are functioning in peak operating conditions
- Create awareness about energy efficiency opportunities within your buildings
- Monitor energy usage patterns and develop an energy management plan
- Establish an energy management team with managers, teachers and others
- Train, educate and involve students and staff in conservation
- Add occupancy sensors to high energy use buildings
- Add water saving devices to high energy use buildings.


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annual utility costs.” says Stroich. “Companies with an Energy Manager show they are fiscally and environmentally responsible. When a company reduces energy and water consumption, the result is less harmful impacts on the environment.”

Stroich notes that in a school division, the program can further enhance energy and environmental education with the participation of staff and students. “By teaching students the behavioural changes, this impacts a whole new generation. The effects of the role can be very far-reaching.”

Once training is complete, an Energy Manager is equipped to spot three types of opportunities: best practice, no- and low-cost improvements, and medium-to-high cost retrofits.

Best practice involves behavioural changes such as having staff and students turn off lighting in unoccupied spaces or at the end of the day. No and low-cost opportunities require little or moderate investment, such as maintenance scheduling for HVAC systems to enhance energy efficiencies. Medium-to-high cost retrofits require the most significant investment, such as replacement of an HVAC system or lighting retrofits.

Energy Manager training is scheduled for November 2008 in Winnipeg. Space is limited so pre-register early. Contact: Nancy Stroich at (204) 474-3390 or e-mail: nstroich@hydro.mb.ca. 

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30th Floor Commodity Exchange Tower
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