

Power Tools - Real World Solutions to Your Toughest Energy Challenges

By William C. Johnson

Energy-related conversations often invite information overload – and not a lot of solutions. Our purpose for this new column is, instead, to engage multiple voices from among our ranks to bring fresh insight and real knowledge from the trenches on what's working in planning and implementation for energy-related projects. The issue is so far reaching within your everyday facility planning/management world that hearing about successful, do-able solutions will hopefully be helpful and encouraging.

AN INTRODUCTION

I'd like to introduce myself and tell you just a little about the mosaic of experiences that has prepared me to lead this effort. I received my B.S. in civil engineering from Northeastern University in 1975. After graduation I worked in solar energy research and development, as well as plant engineering and energy conservation. Honeywell Inc. was a stop along the way, where I was an account manager for three years and learned more about control systems and the business development process than I ever thought possible. My next stop was at AIG Inc., where I was a facility manager for over 600K sf of office space in four states. I dealt with the full gamut of issues from energy, hazardous waste, moves/adds/changes, asbestos, construction and design to every type of building system upgrade known to man. While at AIG, I became one of the first 50 Certified Facility Managers (CFM) through IFMA and have maintained this certification since. For the past almost 20 years I have been working within the higher educational community for various architectural and engineering

firms in a business development function, frequently involved with our clients in needs identification, program design and presentations to trustees. I'm actively involved in numerous organizations from APPA, IFMA, NACUBO, SCUP, ASHE, and IDEA to my most recent involvement as a board member with Second Nature Inc., the co-creator and current implementation arm for the ACUPCC.

I've been around higher education for a long time and have developed a wonderful national network of extremely bright individuals whom I'll call upon to help me keep you informed for this column!

THE GOAL

My goal with this column is to bring you unique planning, design, and implementation solutions to energy-related issues courtesy of my network. I've heard so many good ideas across the country and over the years about how to get the best return on energy investment. And I've always thought that a lot of people would love to hear about the insights of their fellow facility professionals. In some cases they're simple solutions to tough questions we all share! You will be hearing from a range of experienced institutional energy managers and consultants on these issues and you will be provided with the appropriate contact information to continue your conversations off-line, as you see fit.

These nuggets might involve energy master planning (like how to write an RFP to get what you want versus "get what you get,") to greenhouse gas planning (like how to wrestle this one to the ground and actually come up with a plan when 85

percent of your emissions come from central plant facilities), to individual building metering so that you can actually manage-what-you-can-measure (and how to get this great idea funded outside of a building project,) to how to come up with an organized solution to buying energy (and how to put an RFP together for energy supplier consultants to help you) – just to name a few of the issues you are dealing with.

To get you started with a nugget, take a look at what Wendell Brase of the University of California has been learning about server room energy management in relation to operating temperature conditions and the impacts of this and other issues on carbon footprint reduction strategies. He's a great resource!

<http://www.educause.edu/Community/MemDir/Profiles/WendellCBrase/69421>

MAKING IT APPLICABLE

Another goal of mine will be to no matter what the subject, make it applicable to a variety of institutional profiles from large to small and public to private trying to provide specific scalable ideas you can use, right now!

So, that's what I'm going to try to accomplish with this column. I pledge that it won't be dull and boring and if you think it is I encourage you to call/e-mail/text/ping me and tell me so, you won't hurt my feelings...remember, I've been doing business development for 20 years...I can take the heat and welcome your input on subjects you want covered. 💰

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