Sustainability Projects Result in Energy Savings

by Adam Steele, City of Corvallis Franchise Utility Specialist

In the last several years, the Library has been committed to reducing the amount of energy needed for on-going operations. As a result of several projects, the energy consumed at the Library has been steadily dropping. The City tracks energy use at every facility and looks for energy conservation projects with the greatest and quickest return. The chart below shows the annual Btu’s (in millions) used at the Library over the last five years. Total Btu’s are calculated by combining the energy in a kWh of electricity and in a therm of natural gas. Energy savings projects include:

- Retrofitting hundreds of interior and exterior lights to more efficient fixtures.
- Installing new high efficiency boilers.
- Installing an Energy Management System to control the HVAC systems.
- Incorporating work practice changes, reducing lighting where possible, and turning off equipment and lights when not needed.
- Adding insulation to attic areas.

Soon, the Library will also install a new high-efficiency HVAC chiller unit funded by a Federal energy grant, which will further reduce energy consumption.

Message from Library Director Carolyn Rawles-Heiser

Quick! Name the public institution that pioneered the concept of sustainability before it was ever popular. If you said the public library, you’re right!

The very idea of the public library — purchasing materials together using public resources and sharing them freely—epitomizes sustainability at its best. Nobody really “needs” 345,000+ items in their own home, but it certainly is great that those materials are there when you do need or want them. And even better, you now can access many library materials and services online, without having to get in the car and drive downtown.

Maintaining such a community treasure trove is a shared effort, which again epitomizes sustainability! Thank you to everyone — City and County — who pay taxes to support the Library. Thank you to our hundreds of volunteers whose efforts make our Library run efficiently. Thank you to our wonderful staff who provide such outstanding service. Thank you to all those who donate to provide the extras tax dollars alone cannot.

Thank you to the South Benton Library Project for raising the funds to build a new Monroe Library later this year. Thank you to the Friends of the Library whose volunteers sort and sell books all year to raise money for the Library. And thank you to the Library Foundation, who are spearheading an effort to “Complete the Block” by raising funds to purchase the last remaining parcel of land adjacent to the Corvallis Library, so future generations can continue to enjoy our wonderful central city site. It is a truism, but our Library really shows, that we are all in this together.
Library Foundation Corner by Betty McCauley, Board Member

Spring is that annual celebration of things growing. As I write, daffodils are pushing green spears through earth and buds are swelling on trees. By the time you read this, Corvallis will be blooming. This annual green renewal is a reminder of the way our Library has grown. Every few decades, Library use has demanded a concerted effort to enlarge and accommodate our circulation.

It’s hard to believe that it has been over twenty years since the last addition to the Library was supported by the community. In between, interior arrangements made way for a growing book collection, the latest technologies, and space for community activities. In the following months, you will be hearing about the next plan to provide for future space needs.

Called “Complete the Block,” the movement will ensure funding which some day will be needed to purchase the remaining property in the Library block. Just as the gardener makes sure there is land when spring flowers, the Library must look ahead to be ready to provide for the needs of an active literary community. Thank you for your lasting support!

Volunteer Spotlight by Cathi Roberts, Volunteer Coordinator

Eric Urbigkeit is a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie who lives a busy outdoor life and loves hiking, cycling, and surfing. But he also says that the two hours he spends volunteering at the Library on Monday nights “are a highlight of my week.” Perhaps that’s a tribute to the Library’s vitality – perhaps it’s an indication that this super-active outdoorsman is also a thoughtful, multi-faceted guy (personally, I think it’s probably both).

Eric has been checking in books in the circulation workroom since 2003. He’s a cheerful, out-going redhead, guaranteed to liven-up any room he enters. He knows most of the Library staff and a lot of the other volunteers, and he has a smile and a greeting for everyone he encounters. He volunteers because he thinks Corvallis has an outstanding Library – much better, he says, than any of the libraries in larger towns where he’s lived.

“Giving back” to the community is a priority for Eric. He also volunteers for Friends of the Library, hauling cartons of books and helping set up for the Big Book Sale at the Fairgrounds. Another on-going volunteer gig is teaching bicycle safety to 4th and 5th-graders. As much as he loves volunteering, it doesn’t pay very well, and Eric has some expensive habits to support, so he also works for Barefoot Radiant Heating, a local business that designs and installs hydronic under-floor heating systems.

Volunteer Eric Urbigkeit

Eric’s latest sporting enthusiasm is “stand-up paddle-boarding,” which he describes as a cross between surfing and canoeing. “You stand up on a really big board – wider and more stable than a surfboard – and you’ve got this long-handled paddle...” Frankly, I was afraid he was pulling my leg. It wasn’t until I Googled it and saw photos of people actually doing this that I really believed him.

An ideal weekend for Eric and long-time partner Rachel Schwindt might include cycling up to the top of McCulloch peak in McDonald Forest, followed by a long hike or a perhaps a paddleboard excursion on the river. Fun, healthy, invigorating – and a nice prelude to the week’s Monday night highlight: checking in books at the Public Library.
Discover the Environmental Center for Sustainability Studies: GREENR!

by Lindy Brown, Adult Reference Librarian

Corvallis has long been on the forefront of environmental and sustainability initiatives and the Library is a proud partner in that effort. We have a new database this year: Global Reference on the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources (GREENR), which offers authoritative, current and expansive content focused on environment and sustainability topics.

GREENR is perfect for researchers, students, professionals and community members who are interested in environmental topics. For example:

- Students will find resources covering science, history, and politics.
- Professionals will find data on law, economics, politics, and resource management.
- Job seekers will learn about the education required to enter the green-collar marketplace.
- General patrons will find timely information on wide-interest topics like food safety and public transportation.

GREENR is truly a one-stop site, combining a wealth of resources, including news, unique commentary, audio, video, primary source documents, and case study statistics. One particularly unique feature of GRENNR is its country, topic/issue, and organization portals, which cover 160 nations, over 150 different topics and issues (from animal welfare to solar energy), and overviews and links to major environmental international associations (from Greenpeace to the World Wildlife Fund).

Like most of our databases, GREENR is accessible via an Internet connection with your Library card, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Give it a try by accessing it from our A to Z database page: http://corvallis.libguides.com/atoz.

If you have questions about GREENR or any of our other resources, please feel free to contact a librarian via email or phone at askalibrarian@ci.corvallis.or.us or 541.766.6793.

Friends of the Library Corner by David Low, President

The Friends ‘upped the ante’ this year for support of Library programs and special requests. At our January meeting, the Friends Board of Directors committed $80,930 to our Library for 2012. That is a 24.5% increase over what we were able to do this time last year! You made this happen, through book sales, membership, and donations! Here is what you are making happen in 2012:

Annual Requests:
- $14,000 to the Children’s Summer Reading Program
- $5,000 each to year-round Youth and Adult Cultural Programming
- $3,500 staff training beyond what tax money supports
- $3,000 for the Gadget lab
- $2,800 each to the Book Clubs for Adults and Youth
- $1,500 for Book clubs for Extension Services; and
- $2,130 for five other assorted activities.

Unique Requests:
- $15,000 towards furniture for the new Monroe library branch building (grant funded construction to start this Spring);
- $5,100 for an exciting new mobile phone application including checkout feature for library patrons;
- $4,000 for new electronic door counters (measures Library activity);
- $7,000 for furniture at the Main Library;
- $1,500 for a fun film project held at the Alsea Library;
- $1,000 for E-Readers To Go; and
- $1,100 for informational signage.

Although the list is impressive, the Friends know Library services must continue to receive a fair share of general revenue funds. The Corvallis budget is once again under scrutiny. The possibility of budget reductions looms, and it is crucial to know that no amount of volunteer fundraising can offset the type of budget cuts experienced in recent years.

Nonetheless, the Friends are not ‘glass half-empty’ types. We delight in our Library system and truly appreciate all of you who made it possible for us to ‘up the ante!’
Kids Love Our Library by Curtis Kiefer, Youth Services Manager

The Library provides educational and recreational programs for youth from ages birth through 18 that fosters a joy of reading and lifelong learning. Most notable is the Library’s early literacy program which includes storytimes for children from birth through five years of age, as well as outreach services to childcare centers and local agencies serving youth. By providing parents and childcare providers with information and skills which support literacy development, the Library helps lay the foundation for a child’s successful entry into school.

School-age children participate in a broad range of programs, the largest of which is the Summer Reading program. Running from Memorial Day to Labor Day, children attend special events at the Corvallis Library and the branch libraries in Philomath, Monroe, and Alsea that promote reading, earn prizes, and explore a wide variety of books and library resources. Throughout the rest of the year, the Library offers a variety of special programs for children such as book clubs and concerts.

Teens also find programs of interest at the Library. They include an animanga book club, game nights, special events, and Summer Reading activities. In addition, there are two programs for teens run by Library volunteers—a teen writing group and a book club exploring queer themes in young adult literature.

System-wide attendance for youth programs exceeded 30,000 for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Trying to keep up with demand for Library programs means our librarians are constantly on the go and could not accomplish all they do without the very generous help of volunteers.

Funding for youth programs at the Library is very generously supported by the Friends of the Library. In addition to providing funding for the county-wide Summer Reading program, the Friends also support programs such as the Wimpy Kid Book Party, the book clubs, and the Chintimini Chamber Music Festival youth concerts. Additional funding for youth programs is provided by a Ready to Read grant from the Oregon State Library.

For more information about our youth programs, visit www.thebestlibrary.net or phone 541.766.6794.

Dia de los libros performance

Corvallis Public Library
Early Literacy Coordinator
Peik-Kuan Lim
received the
Linn-Benton Chapter
Oregon Association for the
Education of Young Children

2012 Networking Award
for outstanding contribution on behalf of Oregon’s Young Children.
Youth ACTIVITIES

Corvallis Youth Theater Presents Comedia Aladdin

CYT will present a comedia del arte piece based on Aladdin. A fun performance for all ages!

- April 13
- 4:00 pm
- Main Meeting Room

El día de los niños/El día de los libros

Join us for our annual celebration of bilingual literacy with a family puppet theater production—Dragon Puppet Theater presents “Little Bug’s Big World” and other activities.

- April 28
- 2:00 pm
- Main Meeting Room

Beginning Chapters Book Club

Book club for kids reading beginning chapter books on their own. Each month’s book is available at the Library (limited copies).

- March 21
- 3:30 pm
- Storytime Room
- April 18
- 3:30 pm
- Storytime Room

Animanga Book Club

Preview new manga, win prizes in a trivia contest, watch anime, and eat snacks. Ages 12-18 are welcome.

- March 5
- 4:30 pm
- Youth Activity Room
- April 2
- 4:30 pm
- Youth Activity Room

My First Book Club

Book club for kids beginning to read on their own. Book discussion and activity. Parents welcome!

- March 14
- 3:30 pm
- Storytime Room
- April 11
- 3:30 pm
- Storytime Room

Queer Books for Teens

Teens ages 14-18 are welcome to join us for snacks, fun, and a book discussion.

- March 16
- 4:00 pm
- Youth Activity Room
- April 20
- 4:00 pm
- Youth Activity Room

Family Music Fun

Family participation music and movement program for young children and their families.

- March 17
- 11:00 am
- Storytime Room
- April 21
- 11:00 am
- Storytime Room

All youth events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 541.766.6794 or visit our web site at www.thebestlibrary.net.
**Random Review**
*The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Reviewed by Marisa Chappell.
**March 14** 12:00 pm
*Country Driving: A Journey from Farm to Factory* by Peter Hessler. Reviewed by Staci Simonich.
**April 11** 12:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Model Train Display**
Model railway show presented by the Oregon O-Gaugers Train Club. Free fun for the whole family!
**March 29** 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
**March 30 – 31** 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Library Board Meeting**
Monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board. Public welcome.
**March 7** 7:30 pm
**April 4** 7:30 pm
Woman’s Club Board Room

**A Silence of Mockingbirds: The Memoir of a Murder**
Investigative journalist and author Karen Spears Zacharias will give a presentation about her recent memoir.
**April 5** 7:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Book Club**
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.
**March 21** 7:00 pm
*We Were the Mulvaneys* by Joyce Carol Oates
**April 18** 6:30 pm
Woman’s Club Board Room

**Mid-Willamette Woodworkers Guild**
Annual display of pieces created by members of the Mid-Willamette Woodworkers Guild.
**April 19** 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
**April 20 – 21** 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Author Ana Maria Spagna**
An evening with Northwest author Ana Maria Spagna.
**April 13** 7:30 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Writing Workshop**
Grass Roots Bookstore and the Library present a fiction writing workshop in honor of Joyce Carol Oates. Advanced registration required.
**April 28** 2:00 pm
Woman’s Club Board Room

**Letters to Sala: A Young Woman’s Life in Nazi Labor Camps**
In partnership with Oregon State University, the Library will host an exhibition based on a young woman’s five-year ordeal of internment. Special events are also being planned. More details will be available soon on the Library’s web site.
**April 2012**

**League of Women Voters**
All League of Women Voters presentations are open to the public and co-sponsored by the Library.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of Privatization**
**March 13** 7:00 pm
**April 10** 7:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

**Legislative Town Hall**
**March 3** 10:00 am
Main Meeting Room

**Candidate Forum**
**April 24** 7:00 pm
Main Meeting Room

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**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**
**April 9 – 14, 2012**

The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library is celebrating National Library Week with STAR WARS @ Your Library!

More details will be available soon on the Library’s web site: [www.thebestlibrary.net](http://www.thebestlibrary.net)

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All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 541.766.6793.

If you have a disability and need accommodations for a program, call 541.766.6928. Please allow 48 hours notice, so that we can better serve you.