



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

Monthly Energy/ Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET April 2008

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for your information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet subject is the City of Syracuse's Comprehensive Energy and Climate Protection Initiatives Program.

The Syracuse Comprehensive Energy and Climate Protection Initiatives Program has reduced the City's energy use and associated costs by 20% in 2006 and greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced 20% by 2010. The City has taken the innovative step of working closely with the State University of New York-Syracuse, and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to train students to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and quantify results from the City's climate protection policies and programs. Syracuse has replaced all mercury vapor street lighting with high pressure sodium, replaced incandescent traffic signals with light emitting diodes (LEDs), upgraded lighting in all city parking garages, and upgraded city buildings and parks to reduce their climate impacts. The total annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from these initiatives, which are also reducing NO₂, VOCs and PM₁₀ emissions, is equivalent to 11,000 Tons of carbon dioxide annually.

The action plan for energy conservation and the environment has made Syracuse a leader not only among cities in New York State but on a national level as well. These initiatives include development of the [City's Comprehensive Plan 2025](#), the first Citywide planning document produced since 1919.

The City of Syracuse is a recipient of the [2006 Charles H. Percy Award](#) for Public Service from the [Alliance to Save Energy](#), the American Institute of Architects Sustainable Design Assessment Grant in 2006, the 2006 Energy Efficiency Mayor's Award from the United States Energy Association and Johnson Controls, the 2005 New York State Brownfield Opportunity program designation; the 2005 EPA Award of the Year for Climate Protection and the American Institute of Architects Central New York Presidents Award in October 2006.

In 2005, Syracuse signed the Urban Environmental Accords, as only one of 84 cities worldwide to commit to 21 initiatives to improve the environment – Syracuse has already completed 14 of these. Syracuse also signed a contract with Sterling Planet which "Turned the Grid Green" – powering Syracuse City Hall with a mix of renewable energy. In 2003, the City of Syracuse was selected to serve as New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) coordinator for six surrounding counties.

If you have any questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at gardella@buffalo.edu or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at dsutton@city-buffalo.com. We look forward to any input on the monthly tip sheet.

BEMC members are willing to attend any meetings to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets monthly, on the third Wednesday, 8:00 AM, 920 City Hall.