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## NEWS

April 17, 2013

### **OMSI gives energy waste the cold shoulder**

*Museum invests in “cool” technology to save 1.2 million kilowatt hours of energy annually*

PORTLAND, Ore. –April 17, 2013 – The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) welcomes one million adults and children annually to discover, learn and experience more about science and technology. To keep those visitors engaged, OMSI delivers a rich and ever-changing experience. Amidst rising operating costs, Oregon’s leading science museum made a commitment to use its resources wisely and more efficiently to control expenses, resulting in improved heating, cooling and lighting.

“Energy is one of our most significant costs,” said Jerry Bogorad, director of facility operations, OMSI. “And most of it is used to maintain cool indoor temperatures to keep visitors comfortable. On a busy day, the heat generated by our visitors and the overhead lighting can warm the place up pretty quickly.”

With financial assistance from Energy Trust of Oregon, OMSI conducted an energy audit of its 20-year-old HVAC system, which produced a list of recommendations that would improve system reliability and save a significant amount of energy. OMSI committed to a major upgrade including installing three chillers, one dedicated to the OMNIMax Theater and two to the museum, plus improved controls for the energy management system.

Energy Trust provided OMSI with \$345,000 in cash incentives for the energy-saving chiller installations, which are estimated to save 1.2 million kilowatt hours per year and \$90,000 in annual energy costs.

“Energy-efficiency improvements can be daunting, but the resulting long-term energy savings and lower maintenance costs are too good to pass up,” said Bogorad. “Whenever we can save money on operating costs, we free up more resources for other projects in the facility that help us fulfill our educational mission.”

“Plus the improved reliability of new equipment gives us added confidence in our ability to keep operations running smoothly,” added Bogorad.

With 219,000 square feet of museum to illuminate, OMSI is saving even more energy by upgrading lighting in common areas and exhibit halls with help from Energy Trust.

Lighting in the Planetarium lobby features energy-efficient 2-watt light-emitting diode, LED, bulbs equipped with automatic controls to turn off and on based on the museum's hours. In the second floor Earth Science Hall, the museum replaced more than 170 older 120-watt bulbs with newer 21-watt LEDs. The new bulbs come equipped with tiny fans to keep the lights cool and reduce heat in the room for even more energy savings. In the adjacent Life Science Hall, OMSI replaced 120, 120-watt bulbs with 21-watt LEDs, and 30, 120-watt bulbs with 18-watt LEDs. OMSI plans to upgrade a third hall this year.

"With our fixtures mounted in high-ceilinged exhibit areas, bulb replacement was a challenging and costly task for the maintenance team," said Bogorad. "These new bulbs will last seven years, reducing future maintenance and repair costs. And the light quality is terrific. Our exhibits have never looked better."

OMSI's energy-efficiency solutions are one part of an overall museum-wide Energy and Environmental Initiative. In addition to tracking energy use, Bogorad says the museum's commitment to sustainability includes "greener" exhibit production, and programs to lower water use, increase recycling, reduce waste and educate about renewable energy. Energy Trust is a sponsor of OMSI's new bilingual Renewable Energy Exhibit.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and tapping renewable resources. Our services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$1 billion on energy bills. Our work helps keep energy costs as low as possible, creates jobs and builds a sustainable energy future. Learn more at [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) or call 1-866-368-7878.

Founded in 1944, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is one of the nation's leading science museums, a world-class tourist attraction, and an award-winning educational resource for the kid in each of us. OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue, Portland, OR 97214. For general information, call 503.797.4000 or visit [www.oms.edu](http://www.oms.edu).

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