



To: All News Editors

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NWC Leading in Energy Conservation

As many individuals and companies grapple with the increased urgency to cut back on expenditure and consumption particularly in the face of the global economic crisis, the National Water Commission has undertaken several strategies that have allowed the company to reap real rewards.

With just under 1000 pumping stations requiring electrical feed, the National Water Commission (NWC) is the island's largest consumer of electricity, a fact which presents major challenges for the company as currently at least 30% of revenues collected is paid over to the power company for electrical charges. In certain instances, as much as 50% percent of total collections have been turned over to the JPSCo, for electrical consumption.

In a bid to contain what was fast becoming an encumbrance to effective and efficient operations, NWC President E.G Hunter, charged that every effort must be made to cut the energy bill, indicating that "these astronomical electricity bills have serious and threatening implications for the company's survival and viability as a commercially operated entity."

It was against this background that the NWC implemented a number of mechanisms over a one year period that saw electrical costs being cut by 20.5%. Strategies included procurement of only energy efficient pumping units and lighting, use of automation and controls on pumping systems, optimizing pumping operations, conducting energy audits and the installation of 24-hours – 7 day timers on selected facilities. JPSCo meters are read and readings recorded by the Commission's Operations and Maintenance staff each month and all electricity bills are monitored and analyzed by employees appointed as Energy Coordinators.

According to Billy Meikle, Technical Services Manager in the Eastern Division of the NWC, “the staff plays a critical role in adherence to these strategies. All properties and offices owned by the Commission have therefore been outfitted with volunteer “Electricity Marshals”, from among the ranks of the staff, who ensure that conservation strategies and standards are met.”

Today, the Commission boasts approximately 19% reduction in electricity consumption at 2 of its facilities, \$5million in savings per month at some seven plants in one of its Areas resulting from use of 24 hour timers, and the identification of a number of JPSCo billing errors totaling some \$64million due to over billing over the past year alone.

“We have been able to achieve marked success in reducing our electrical use and associated costs. Something had to be done, we are happy with the results so far and will continue to strive to encourage energy conservation in our operations and certainly among all members of staff,” says Meikle.

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