

July 13, 2001

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**PSC'S ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACHIEVE 18% REDUCTION  
IN AGENCY'S ELECTRICITY USAGE IN JUNE**

The Montana Public Service Commission challenges other state agencies, local governments and the university system to match its achievement of an almost 18-percent reduction in its electricity usage for the month of June over the same month last year.

The PSC's electricity bill for June reflected usage of 8,226 kilowatt-hours, which is 1,458 kWhs fewer than the 9,684 kWhs the agency used in June 2000.

"We took to heart Governor Martz's executive order requiring agencies to reduce their electricity consumption by 10 percent and decided to set an example for other agencies," according to PSC Chairman Gary Feland. "And it didn't hurt a bit."

The PSC's efforts to save energy included shutting down computers after the work day, reducing the number of lights in the agency's hallways and offices, and replacing some conventional light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Feland continued, "I don't know what other offices are doing, but here at the PSC, we know first hand that conservation can go a long way to help all Montanans -- those who have lost their jobs due to the high electricity prices and the folks who are worried about how to pay for their household power. Even adjusted for weather variances from year to year, I think we've made a real contribution. We are challenging other groups to do the same."

Feland said he hopes the electricity that is conserved can go to the electrical energy pool established by the 2001 Legislature and implemented last month by the PSC so that more affordable power will be available to put Montana workers back on the job.

"The demand out there for this affordable power from the energy pool far exceeds the supply. If we all pull together, we can make a big difference out there," Feland said.

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