



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courts.ca.gov

HON. TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MR. MARTIN HOSHINO
Administrative Director,
Judicial Council

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Mr. Patrick McGrath
Tel 916-263-8051
Fax 916-263-8140

MR. CURT SODERLUND
Chief Administrative Officer

November XX, 2014

Hon. XX
Court Address
Court Address
Court Address

Subject: Courthouse Utility Costs

Dear Judge XX,

The Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee (Committee) recently requested information on utility costs and their impact on the Court Facilities Trust Fund Account (CFTF). On November 3, the Judicial Council's Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Unit (EC&S) made a presentation to the Committee. Highlights of the presentation include the following:

- Historically, utility expenses have been over 40% of the CFTF;
- Out of all the utility expenses, electricity makes up the largest segment at approximately 76%; and
- Electricity costs have increased an average of 9.6% per year since 2009.

The Committee asked that each court receive a report on the electricity and water costs of each courthouse ranked by highest to least expensive. The goal of this report is to inform the courts as to how their utility costs compare with other courthouses which might lead to a reduction in use. Further, the Committee appreciates that you may have knowledge of factors that may be contributing to these costs and that you are well positioned to share that information.

Attached, please find a list of all your courthouse facilities. As you will see, for electricity, the highest cost for your court is **\$2.24** per square foot, while the lowest is **\$1.31** per square foot. For comparison purposes, the average for your region is **\$1.66** per square foot. For water, the highest cost for your court is **\$0.93** per square foot, while the lowest is **\$0.10** per square foot. Again, for comparison purposes, the average for your region is **\$0.21** per square foot.

Electricity costs are influenced by a number of factors, including rates, type of equipment, climate, etc. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a

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breakdown of each of your facilities and a general means to compare your electricity costs. EC&S will continue to analyze electricity costs and usage in an effort to identify opportunities to reduce usage and ultimately the cost and impact to the CFTF account.

While the majority of your electricity costs are related to the facility lighting and HVAC equipment/operation, “plug load” has an impact as well. Plug load includes the smaller equipment court users employ, such as computer screens, AV equipment and coffee makers. Included with this letter is a handout on how to reduce “plug load” in your facility.

Next year, we will be sending out another list, so that you can see the growth/reduction in your electricity costs. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in further analysis of your facilities.

Thank you,

Laura Sainz
Manager, Environmental Compliance & Sustainability

Attachments



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

TRIAL COURT FACILITY MODIFICATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Attachment 1

Utility Cost Per Square Foot by Facility
FY 2013-2014 Expenditures

Electric Cost Per Square Foot

Building ID	Building Name	Shared-Use Facility?	Central Plant?	Court Square Footage*	Annual Cost - Electricity	Cost Per Square Foot
XX	XX	No	No	21,185	\$ 47,413	2.24
XX	XX	No	No	100,360	\$ 193,468	1.93
XX	XX	Yes	No	116,200	\$ 170,033	1.46
XX	XX	Yes	No	291,083	\$ 388,806	1.34
XX	XX	Yes	No	164,981	\$ 215,318	1.31

Water Cost Per Square Foot

Building ID	Building Name	Shared-Use Facility?	Central Plant?	Court Square Footage*	Annual Cost - Water	Cost Per Square Foot
XX	XX	No	No	291,083	\$ 270,523	0.93
XX	XX	Yes	No	21,185	\$ 10,525	0.50
XX	XX	Yes	No	164,981	\$ 77,456	0.47
XX	XX	No	No	116,200	\$ 14,239	0.12
XX	XX	Yes	No	100,360	\$ 9,887	0.10

* Court Square Footage = The Judicial Council share of the square footage within a court facility.



Managing Plug Load Utilizing Low/No Cost Measures



Electricity use associated with plug loads is on the rise in commercial buildings and is considered the fastest growing uses of energy. In 2003, plug load constituted roughly 15% of energy use and by 2012 approximately 47% with the influx of electronic devices for business and personal use.

No Cost Measures:

- Inventory of the plug loads in the building to assess how and when plug loads are used. Computers, monitors, server rooms and imaging equipment like printers use the most energy, but don't overlook plugged-in devices such as space heaters, water coolers, task lights, refrigerators and fans.
- Remove any devices that are unused or make sure they are turned off.
- Educate employees to simply turn off or unplug equipment when it's not in use.
- Ensure that power management features (sleep mode) are turned on for desk top computers, monitors and imaging equipment. Don't assume they are factory set.
- Dim the brightness control on monitors which can save up to 17% of the required energy usage.
- Employee training on how to set the power management settings on their office and related equipment.
- Unplug equipment or devices (coffee pots, toasters, microwaves, etc.) as even in off mode still consume energy known as phantom or vampire power suckers.
- Turn off all audio-visual equipment when not in use.
- Choose ENERGY STAR labeled products when replacing computing components equipment, imaging equipment, space heaters, vending machines, televisions, projectors and refrigerators.

Low Cost Measures:

- Purchase advanced plug strips that when the computer is turned off, everything else in the plug strip is turned off. Or, the Occupancy-sensing plug strips that detect the presence or absence of a user and automatically turn equipment on and off in response.
- Vending Misers will power down vending machines by 47% when not in use and power up when someone approaches the machine.
- LED task lights can use a little as 6-9 watts as compared to incandescent or compact fluorescent lights.
- Install low-power digital timers to turn off equipment during non-business hours.
- Consider laptops which use 90% less energy than desk top computers.
- Inkjet printers use significantly less energy than laser and solid ink printers.