



The State University  
of New York

# Office for Capital Facilities Newsletter

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OCF



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## Note from the Director – Karren Bee-Donohoe

Capital Planning and Energy Initiatives are hot topics this quarter in the Office for Capital Facilities (OCF). Early preparation for the 13/14 capital plan is underway. SUCF and SUNY OCF are working together to create advocacy documents that highlight the benefit of past, present and future SUNY capital spending in all four

programs; Educational Facilities, Hospitals, Residential Facilities and Community Colleges. SUNY OCF has primary responsibility for the Residential Facilities and Community Colleges, and is working with campuses and colleges to develop project lists for the next 5-10 years in keeping with the goals of the NY Works taskforce.

In energy, the newly named governor's initiative BuildSmart NY will soon have a new executive order that will guide efforts to reduce state facility energy use by 20% in seven years. Operation and Maintenance standards will be incorporated in the initiative. More to follow. - *Karren Bee-Donohoe, Director OCF*

### Upcoming Deadlines

- August 9**  
Governor's energy initiative survey due to OCF
- August 31**  
FY2011-12 EMBS Reports due to OCF
- October 1**  
Clery Reports on crime and fire reporting due.
- October 1**  
Diesel Emissions Reporting (DERA) from campus to Office for Capital Facilities
- November 1**  
DERA from OCF to DEC

## Energy News

The Office for Capital Facilities has begun the process of converting the Energy Management and Budgeting System (EMBS) reporting to the new EnergyCap software. Training at the campus level will be provided prior to the system being made available to campuses for data entry in October 2012. The goal is for OCF to pre-load as much information as possible, in order to reduce the effort required by each campus.

In other news, National Grid (NG) has filed a request with the Public Service

Commission for a rate increase beginning in April 2013. The last rate increase granted NG \$119 million of the \$300 million requested. The new request includes an increase of \$143.7 million for electricity customers and \$42.8 million for the natural gas customers.

In public advertisements NG is not being clear that New Yorkers would see a \$190 million decrease in rates if no action was taken. This decrease is from consumers having paid off debts incurred as a result of deregulating

the utility industry. Rather, NG is presenting the rate increase request as a slight decrease to what consumers pay today. This does not accurately reflect the true cost of the increase to consumers, and does not represent that NG would gain significantly from the requested increase.

SUNY is opposed to the increase and is being represented through its membership of Multiple Intervenors, an association of over 50 of the largest industrial and commercial electricity consumers in New York.

## Public Works Enforcement Fund

The Department of Labor (DOL) uses the Public Works Enforcement Fund (PWEF) to enforce the State's Labor Laws including payment of Prevailing Wage Rates on Public Works contracts for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair. Prior to April 2011, SUNY projects subject to the PWEF were reported to DOL by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). With the change to post award audit, OSC no longer has the ability to provide such reporting to DOL.

The Office for Capital Facilities is

working with various offices within System Administration to develop a system wide report of contracts subject to the PWEF. The report will utilize the contract's sub object code to determine which contracts are for construction.

In the interim campuses are encouraged to track what contracts are subject to the PWEF. This information will be helpful when doing checks of the initial system wide report. If your campus has been independently reporting and paying PWEF fees to DOL

please continue to do so. Those fees paid can be reconciled when a system wide report is made available. It is important to ensure there is budget set aside to pay PWEF fees on all construction contracts issued April 2011 to date.

For additional information on the Public Works Enforcement Fund and New York State's Prevailing Wage Rate requirements please visit the [Department of Labor website](#).



## Protecting Workers from Heat Stress and Heat Illness

Over-exposure to heat can cause illness and death. The most serious heat illness is heat stroke which is a medical emergency. Other heat illnesses, such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash, should also be avoided.

Symptoms of **Heat Exhaustion** include: headache, dizziness, or fainting; weakness and wet skin; irritability or confusion; and thirst, nausea, or vomiting.

A worker with the more serious **Heat Stroke** may be confused, unable to think clearly, pass out, collapse, or have seizures (fits). They may stop sweating and feel very warm to the touch. This is a medical emergency!

**If the worker is not alert or seems confused, it may be a heat stroke. Call 911 or your emergency number immediately, and apply ice as soon as possible.**

Until help arrives:

- Have someone stay with the worker until help arrives.
- Move the worker to a cooler/shaded area; remove outer clothing; fan and mist the worker with water; apply ice (ice bags or ice towels).
- Provide cool drinking water, if the worker is able to drink.

Heat related illness can often be avoided with awareness, allowing workers to become accustomed or acclimate to warmer tempera-

tures, having workers take frequent breaks in cooler places, and providing easily accessible cool drinking water (encouraging at least a pint/hour per person). Special care needs to be taken by people who wear protective equipment which may keep them even warmer. In some cases, workers should employ a buddy system to watch out for one another. Sometimes tasks can be arranged for the earlier, cooler part of the day.

Please take a moment to visit [OSHA's website](#) which has much more specific information on heat stress.



## Residence Hall Program—Changing Times for Capital Planning

The residence hall capital planning process is in full swing, and evolving at the same time. The program faces several challenges including: developing a comprehensive capital plan that incorporates last year's lack of appropriation; learning how to work with NY Works and the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC); and developing legislation to create a new alternative bonding mechanism for the program.

Not receiving the \$355M of bonded appropriation requested in the 2012-13 State budget has caused major delays in projects planned in fiscal years 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Office for Capital Facilities recognizes the strain this causes campuses and continues to

work on alternatives that will allow the program to move forward.

In preparation for the 2013-14 State budget campuses have submitted annual updates including five years worth of updated project needs, backed by a ten year cash flow. These requests include anything excluded last year due to lack of appropriation. The complexity of long term capital planning is amplified by the new processes for requesting appropriations in the 2013-14 State budget. Keeping with the Governor's objectives the budget request will take into account REDC strategic plans and follow guidance from the NY Works task force.

Finally, the Office for Capital Facilities

is in the process of examining the current residence hall program to develop alternatives that would no longer subject new debt issuance to the State's bond cap requirements. The current residential housing program is self-sustaining, as it uses student room rents to cover all operating and capital costs related to its operation. If successful in being removed from the bond cap requirements the programmatic needs of each campus coupled with the financial viability of its projects would be the only limiting factors for this program's capital development.

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