

Allegan County Facility Management Continues Energy Conservation Efforts
By: Robert Wakeman, Director

Here is another good example of your county team continuing to improve their efforts to conserve energy and be prudent with taxpayers' money that is entrusted to them.

Allegan County Facilities Management Department is moving forward with another measure to conserve energy used by County buildings. Our latest effort is to install new LED technology security lighting for the north County services building parking lot. These new light fixtures use 156 Watts of energy as opposed to the existing 400 Watt high pressure sodium fixtures. The new LED lighting will provide a more evenly focused brighter lighting level and will last for fifteen or more years ... thus reducing maintenance costs.

Allegan County is pleased to be in the forefront in use of this technology and still meet both our security needs and our need to conserve energy dollars. Although LED technology is not new, the use of this technology in an outdoor arena is very new and many manufacturers are getting on board with designing and producing newer, more reliable and functional fixtures at a more economical cost. We plan to have the security lighting installed and operating by the middle of September.

Further, additional energy conservation methods are being implemented by our Facilities Department. We are using florescent lights to replace incandescent bulbs, using lower watt T8 bulbs, retrofitting light fixtures to use less bulbs and replacing old heating and cooling equipment with more energy efficient new equipment. We are also using digital control technology in our buildings to monitor, control and schedule all our heating and cooling to be as efficient as possible and still maintain basic comfort levels.

Facilities management will continue in the days ahead to try to find other means to save our limited resources and still maintain comfortable and safe buildings for the citizens and employees of Allegan County.