

## Hamilton County's Department of Facilities Receives Governor's Award For Excellence In Energy Efficiency For Energy Conservation Master Plan

Hamilton County Facilities Department was among twelve honorees receiving the Governor's Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency in 2004. Hamilton County was the only government body receiving this award, which was presented to the Director, Ralph Linne at the awards luncheon in Columbus at the State Capital. Energy Conservation Program identified large energy savings opportunities in six of the county's downtown buildings.

In 1998 Hamilton County Department of Facilities contracted with ThermalTech Engineering to identify large energy savings opportunities within six downtown buildings owned by Hamilton County. An Energy Steering Committee was created along with an Energy Manager position, and energy conservation measures were implemented.

The criteria chosen for the "Energy Conservation Master Plan" included low implementation costs matched with large-dollar, long lasting, sustainable, high return on investment projects. Savings from projects were funneled back into the program to improve energy usage. The common goal of the Hamilton County Department of Facilities and ThermalTech Engineering in the Energy Conservation Measure (ECM) program was to save energy through innovative and creative thinking.

The ECM project was implemented in five phases:

1. An initial survey
2. Brainstorming on Energy Conservation Measures
3. Creation of cost estimates and "Return-on-Investment" spreadsheet
4. Implementation of high-Return-on-investment opportunities first
5. Tracking progress for savings and losses

During the last five years this program was followed and had achieved an annual saving of over \$100,000 in reduced energy usage. This amounted to over a half million dollars in a five year period.