



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET July 2011

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases the City of Irvine and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County sustainability outreach efforts.

In December 2008, the City of Irvine was honored with a 6th Annual Flex Your Power Award by the State of California. Irvine won in the Education and Media category for its Community Energy Partnership (CEP) program. The CEP delivered outreach and education on a large scale to multiple sectors of the community. The program included the following elements:

- "A Brighter Future for Irvine," a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) distribution program in which more than 69,000 free CFL bulbs were distributed to residents and businesses.
- Energy efficiency tune-ups for residences and small businesses, which covered water conservation as well as energy efficiency
- A standards-based science curriculum for 4th grade students (PEAK) that taught smart energy management in homes, schools, and the greater community.

CEP's enormous success can be attributed to building key private/nonprofit/public partnerships and outreaching to all sectors of the community. Personal interaction with Irvine citizens was labor-intensive but crucial since answering questions face-to-face ensured that information was relayed correctly and effectively and could be passed on to friends and family.

As a result of the CEP, Irvine residents and businesses are saving approximately \$500,000 annually in energy costs and reducing approximately one million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year. This reduction is equivalent to taking approximately 250 cars off the road.

In another example of outreach for sustainability, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) in Kentucky established an internal Energy Management Team, developed an Energy Management Policy, and implemented an energy conservation program to educate employees on the importance of energy conservation. As part of the energy conservation program, wallet cards containing energy conservation tips and environmental info (along with a holiday schedule) are distributed to all 3,300+ LFUCG employees each year.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at [gardella@buffalo.edu](mailto:gardella@buffalo.edu) or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at [dsutton@city-buffalo.com](mailto:dsutton@city-buffalo.com).

BEMC members are willing to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of every month, 8:00 AM, 901 City Hall. The BEMC web site address is:

[http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental\\_Management\\_Commission](http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission)