



JBLM hyped on conservation

Be on lookout for outdoor lights on during day time

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The annual Energy Action Month returns to Joint Base Lewis-McChord this month. In March, President Barack Obama proclaimed October as a month for energy conservation efforts. Citizens across the nation are encouraged to ensure their facility, home and office are conserving energy throughout the year.

JBLM Directorate of Public Works employees are hosting events throughout the month to help with energy saving measures.

Sakhawat Amin, JBLM DPW energy program coordinator, said the objectives for 2015 are to “Turn it down,” by controlling manual thermostats to save gas, and “Turn it off,” reducing electricity usage.

The Day Burner Challenge returns this year. Participants who call 253-967-3131 to report external lights left on during the day may take home prizes. Buildings to look for lights include administration buildings, barracks, dining areas, storage building, shopping, parking lots and street lights. This challenge is part of an effort to turn off unnecessary lights that consume power, Amin said.

“It is open to all, anyone can call DPW with complaints about lights and their names will be entered for weekly drawings,” Amin said.

In accordance with the new federal proclamation, JBLM Energy Regulation 420-1 has been revised. With a goal on JBLM becoming more efficient and eliminating energy waste, there are

new guidance, responsibilities and set points to follow. Promoting awareness and sharing information is also important in this updated regulation.

Net Zero Expos, held Saturday brought resources to both McChord Field and Lewis Main exchanges. Passerbys learned energy conservation tips from Lacey Stream Team, Lemay, Puget Sound Energy and others. LeMay gathered attendees old personal files to safely shred for free.

Participants won prizes, including energy efficient light bulbs, by completing challenges. There were also alternative fuel vehicles including Tesla cars and electric motorcycles from the Tacoma Electric Auto Association on the lot.

Building operator certification training is available for those in charge of facilities around JBLM. The program improves job skills including controls, lighting and envelope system training.

As the weather becomes cooler, it is important to remind people of energy saving strategies, Amin said. To keep a building warm without wasting energy, it's important to check these items continually:

- Check the thermostat and ensure it is on the proper setting;
- Keep doors and windows closed to keep the heat indoors;
- Check the insulation in walls, floors and roofs;
- Check door thresholds to ensure they are not damaged;
- Clean heating ducts and registers throughout the building;
- Use low heat and wattage LED lights for holiday decorations.

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