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Energy Action Month

Energy monitors encourage resilience

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Days are getting shorter, nights longer, and it's time to be energy aware. October is "Energy Action Month." Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Directorate of Public Works is spreading the word this month that it takes all of us to reduce the installation's energy usage — "Turn it down and turn it off."

More information
During Energy Action Month, Joint Base Lewis-McChord students can submit original artwork on the theme, "Save Energy and Protect Our Environment" to their local JBLM elementary school for a chance to win prizes. Poster contest sponsored by the JBLM Energy Program.

"Energy resilience enables our military forces to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions in the availability of energy, land and water resources," according to Army Directive 2017-07.

Building energy monitors are a vital part of the installation energy and sustainability efforts.

"Being on forefront of energy management is a good thing to get into," said Scott Vivian, a DPW boiler plant supervisor, who went to the energy management class offered quarterly at the environmental division's Building 1210.

Vivian does a daily check to power down and turn off lights and communicates regularly with Sakhawat Amin, DPW energy program coordinator.

Vivian receives support from Carl Thompson, mechanical section chief, and together enforce energy savings throughout their shops and through their daily work on the boilers around the installation.

"The more you know about it, the better you can enact energy savings," Vivian said. According to Army Regulation 420-1, each building requires a designated building energy monitor who serves as the point of contact for the building and DPW.

Samantha Phelps, management support assistant and building energy monitors for Waller Hall, said having a repurposed building with no windows can cause extensive energy usage — too hot in the summer, too cold in the winter. Waller Hall has a fluctuating work force of between 200-250 employees.

"If anybody plugs in a space heater, we blow a circuit" Phelps said. "We can have up to 1,000 people in here for all the services."

While it can be challenging to keep temperatures steady, Amin maintains good communication with DPW.

"Resources are tight but the communication is good," Amin said.

The daily check is supported by all sections in DHR to make sure the computer monitors are off, the last person out turns off the lights.

With heater season coming soon, DPW is encouraging awareness of energy use in JBLM facilities to make sure heat is kept down and not wasted in vacant spaces. According to Army-420-1, indoor air temperature inside any occupied office/admin building should be at 68 degrees (55 degrees for unoccupied buildings).

Energy informed decision making is needed to build resilience across the installation by reducing consumption, providing alternative sources of energy and increasing reliability of systems and infrastructure. Wise use of energy extends mission reach and endurance, reduces sustainment demands and frees service members from support tasks to focus on the primary mission.

Does your building need to assign a building energy monitor? Call Amin at 253-966-9011 to register for Tuesday's class from 10 to 11 a.m. at the classroom in Building 1210.

Check out the latest news on the DPW SustainableJBLM/Facebook.com.

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