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## Energy savings identified at OCCA

In keeping with its environmental mission, the Otsego County Conservation Association conducted an energy audit under the auspices of the New York State Energy Resource and Development Agency, or NYSERDA. The organization took part in NYSERDA's "Small Commercial Energy Audit Program."

"Since OCCA has been promoting the concept of the 'Low Carbon Diet' to encourage area residents to reduce their carbon dioxide output in one month's time, we thought we should lead by example and look at our own energy use," OCCA President Martha Clarvoe said.

The study was designed to determine what, if any, energy conservation adjustments might be made to the building which houses the offices of OCCA, Otsego 2000, Otsego Land Trust and the American Red Cross. It was conducted by L&S Energy Services of Clifton Park at a cost of \$100.

The 2,240-foot-square building, located in Cooperstown, consists of two brick-on-slab structures with a frame barn between them that serves as the site of the Cooperstown Farmers' Market. The Red Cross is located in the east wing while OCCA, Otsego 2000 and the Otsego Land Trust share the west wing.

The audit analysis, issued Jan. 29, laid out the cost of new energy-saving measures, the estimated annual savings to be reaped by implementing those measures, and the length of time it would take for each new measure to pay for itself.

Lighting accounted for the highest annual energy consumption, at just over 70 percent. Equipment usage ranked second, at close to 22 percent, followed by air-conditioning, used by two of the three organizations, at 8 percent.

Energy costs were in line with consumption, with lighting making up about 42 percent of total annual costs, and space heating upwards of 35 percent. Next costly was equipment at 13 percent. Air conditioning came in at close to 5 percent while the dishwasher and hot water heater were factored in at 4 percent.

The audit report made the following recommendations:

Replace existing T-12 fluorescent lamps and ballasts with T-8 lamps and ballasts, using existing fixtures.

Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, which use one-fourth to one-third as much energy as incandescents and last longer.

Replace existing windows with "low-e" thermo pane glass, and install thermal breaks on window frames.

Apply weather stripping around exterior door jambs to eliminate drafts and stop infiltration of outside air.

OCCA was provided with a summary of the recommended energy conservation measures with payback periods of less than 10 years. According to the report, "If all the recommended items were implemented at a cost of \$6,405, the total savings would be \$1,509 per year, translating into an overall payback in just over four years.

Some of the recommended measures are eligible for NYSERDA's "Existing Facilities Program" incentives. These incentives could reduce installation costs by slightly more than \$250, thus slightly reducing the payback period.