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## GREEN AWARENESS

By Josh Costell, Tozour Energy Services

### Ocean County College embarks on energy reduction initiative

Commercial buildings all over the Mid Atlantic region are “going green” these days, and in the world of education, Ocean County College (OCC) is taking steps to ensure its buildings are energy efficient. The college recently selected Tozour Energy Services, a division of Tozour Energy Systems, a full-service HVAC and building automation provider, to implement an energy reduction plan that will save \$375,000 per year in energy bills.

In addition to the cost benefits, the environmental benefits of such a project are significant. The ten-year impact of the energy reduction project will be 13,680 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the air, 37,950 trees planted or 2,151 cars removed from daily use on nearby roads. The overall learning environment at OCC will also be enhanced for its students, as indoor air quality plays an important role in an educational setting.

OCC, a public, two-year community college sponsored by Ocean County and the State of New Jersey, is based in Toms River, NJ, with satellite campuses in Manahawkin and Brick Township, NJ. The college offers Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees.

With buildings across three



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campuses, it was important for OCC to find partners to identify energy saving opportunities throughout the college’s various locations. Tozour is working with Concord Engineering of Voorhees, NJ to develop these opportunities.

OCC has always been a leader in energy-efficiency measures like fuel cells. “Ocean County College has been involved with sustainable building design and energy savings since 1992,” said Ken Olsen, director of facilities engineering and operations at OCC. “This project with Tozour Energy Systems continues to lead us toward our goal of being a good steward of the environment.”

To achieve energy efficiency, changes will be made in buildings across the cam-

puses including everything from lighting, controls and ventilation to occupancy sensors, energy-efficient chillers and other equipment, and even energy saving measures for the main campus pool. A campus-wide building automation system will also be installed to enable college personnel to make energy-saving decisions in real-time. All work is scheduled to be completed in August 2009.

“We are committed to using taxpayer’s dollars wisely at OCC. Updating our facilities across all locations will not only help the environment, but will save the college a significant amount of money on energy bills,” said Dr. Jon H. Larson, president of OCC. “These savings will allow the college to better control tuition costs and give even more NJ STARS scholarships to deserving students.”

The project is part of the New Jersey State 10-Year Energy Program, in which Tozour will guarantee that energy savings will pay for the project over the next decade. The college is the first higher education institution in the state to embark on such an initiative in the past 10 years.

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