

Section 410 of Arkansas Code Title 22, Chapter 2 as amended by Act 1494 requires an annual performance review report of the Sustainable Energy-Efficient Buildings Program from Arkansas institutions of higher education to the cochairs of the Legislative Council. Accordingly, this report has been prepared by the University of Central Arkansas to comply with that requirement. While the period to be covered by each annual report is not defined in Act 1494, the period of this University's first report is July 1, 2009 through October 31, 2010.

The University of Central Arkansas has for a long time been very proactive in the quest to reduce energy use in public buildings. Detailed utility records for this campus show a steady and noteworthy drop in energy consumption per square foot over the past fifteen years. Indeed, recently a study by Sightlines, which benchmarks hundreds of colleges and universities across the country, indicated that UCA is among the top performers when it comes to energy consumption. This has come about as a result of our aggressive pursuit of energy related projects and a standing policy of upgrading, not just replacing obsolete energy equipment. UCA welcomes the intent and goals of the Sustainable Energy-Efficient Buildings Program, as the program is consistent with our past commitment to energy conservation and is a suitable challenge to further improve the performance of our facilities in the future.

The following topics are arranged as called for in Act 1494:

Costs of Implementation of the New Standards

The University has for many years made available to design professionals and other interested parties a collection of building design standards for this campus. In response to Act 1494, UCA has added a section detailing the requirements for more energy and water efficient building construction and spelling out the particular steps to comply with the new standards at UCA. The cost of implementation for this action was approximately 40 man-hours of engineering and other time. This is the only direct implementation cost incurred during the period of this report, as UCA did not construct any new buildings nor perform any major renovations that would have fit the criteria of Act 1494.

Our new College of Business was already under construction when Act 1494 was passed, and none of the renovations accomplished exceeded 50% of current building replacement value. However, the College of Business was designed, built and is being operated in a fashion that probably would comply with the new standards in terms of energy use. The University also completed two sizable improvement projects which modernized the heating and air conditioning systems of Burdick Hall (which was temporarily vacated by the move of the College of Business to their new facility) and Arkansas Hall, an older residence hall constructed in the 1960s. In both projects, the new equipment installed was state of the art for energy efficiency. Numerous other projects, some funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act brought increased efficiency by sealing building envelopes and replacing roofs .

A new \$20 million residence hall now under design will be the University's first major facility to be constructed under Act 1494 standards. The new standards have been discussed at length with the architect-engineer during the design process to date. Moreover, UCA has further committed to having this building LEED certified.

Operating Savings Attributable to Implementing the New Standards

There are no relevant savings to report, since no projects during the reporting period met the definition of “major facility” or “major renovation” as defined in Act 1494.

Impact on Employee Productivity from Application of Act 1494

As noted above, UCA has had no qualifying projects during the reporting period.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Application of the New Standards

This will be reported in the future as UCA constructs projects that fall under the new standards.

Recommended Changes

The specific time period to be covered by these annual reports should be defined for future reporting purposes. With limited experience to date with the effects of Act 1494, UCA has no other recommended changes at this time.