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# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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Greetings FM Team,

Today's topic of interest is resource conservation. I thought you might be intrigued to learn about how FM engineers and FM project managers are approaching this while simultaneously keeping people and property safe. They are faced with making difficult decisions when it is understood that one action can have many ramifications. That's why it takes a team of diverse thinkers to look at a situation, discuss scenarios, and then arrive at the best solution. I've included a few examples of their recent efforts below:

- Decreased water usage in buildings has led to some stagnation of water, both hot and cold. This appears, on the face of it, to be a great opportunity for resource conservation. However, stagnant water can cause bacterial growth, which can lead to water-borne diseases from cold water and Legionnaire's disease from warm water. So, as reported in one of my earlier communications, our custodians have been flushing extra water during cleaning to keep the water fresh. Despite this perceived water "wasting," CSU's overall water usage is way down. Additionally, even though it uses energy, the hot water recirculation pumps have been kept on because it allows people to get hot water quickly, especially when farther away from the water heater.
- CSU's Shortgrass campus, an important ecological research site in Weld County, has nine buildings; most are unoccupied and will remain unoccupied for the foreseeable future. FM staff are strategically shutting down water and heat to about half of the buildings. This will save the University money and reduce our carbon footprint at this site.
- CSU's Mountain Campus is currently not in its normal operational mode. Natural Resources classes and conferences are cancelled through June. Yet there is still activity on the campus, and several construction and infrastructure improvement projects, planned and funded months ago, are moving ahead. These include a new grease interceptor for the dining hall; new modular houses to replace three derelict cabins; a new wastewater treatment plant; foundations for a new lab and classroom building; a bridge railing improvement; and new stairs on two buildings. Along with this work, a few of the buildings on Mountain Campus have been opened with heat and water. This is so we can provide housing to some of the contractor personnel, as well as two CSU maintenance workers who are on site full-time. The intent was to cut down on the number of employees commuting to and from Fort Collins each day. It may come with the added benefit of improving a person's workday by living in a mountain environment for a few days or even weeks. With these accommodations, though, it is certainly not for the faint of heart as there is no food service, laundry service, or social gathering.

Thanks to the Engineering and Capital Construction section for leading these efforts around resource conservation, and to the other FM crews (plumbers, custodians, RCS, and others) who are key partners in this collaboration.

With much appreciation,



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