



COLUMBUS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

PORT COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL • RICKENBACKER INTERNATIONAL • BOLTON FIELD

For Immediate Release

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Airport Authority Making Measurable Strides Toward Goal of Reducing Energy Consumption

*Sustainable Initiatives at Port Columbus, Rickenbacker, Bolton Field
Improve Operating Efficiencies, Maintenance Costs*

COLUMBUS – In 2010 the Columbus Regional Airport Authority’s 210 electric meters registered a total of 36 million kilowatt hours (kWh), resulting in \$3.6 million in electric bills for the year. That’s enough electricity to provide power to 3,000 homes. In an effort to manage its multi-million dollar energy costs more effectively and exercise responsible environmental stewardship, the Airport Authority recently formalized an Energy Management Plan.

“The Airport Authority continually seeks to keep operating costs low so that our air service partners find it advantageous to operate at Port Columbus, Rickenbacker and Bolton Field airports,” said President & CEO Elaine Roberts, A.A.E. “Additionally, we strive to be a leader in the aviation industry and the local community with energy conservation and related compliance. We are already seeing returns on environmental investments that were made in recent years and we are meeting or exceeding most of the goals established by aviation trade associations for their member airports.”

The Airport Authority’s Energy and Environment team, which oversees and implements the Energy Management Plan, capitalized on commercial and industrial energy conservation training offered by American Electric Power of Ohio (AEP Ohio). This training and a continuing partnership with AEP Ohio has helped the Airport Authority identify numerous areas for improvement, resulting in significant energy savings and rebates from AEP Ohio with more anticipated in the future.

Energy conservation projects implemented by the Airport Authority since 2006 have qualified for \$269,000 in rebates. These improvements resulted in over 4.5 million kWh of energy reduction. One particular project at Port Columbus involved the installation of 344 light-emitting diode (LED) light fixtures on the arrival and departure drives, which yielded a reduction of 577,000 kWh of electricity per year and nearly \$38,000 in rebates. The drive lighting also created a more evenly-lit space with increased light levels and decreased maintenance burdens.

“When individual consumers and organizations such as the Airport Authority take the initiative to reduce energy consumption, it diminishes overall system demand and helps AEP Ohio meet energy efficiency goals set by the state,” said Jon Williams, AEP Ohio, manager of energy efficiency and peak demand response. “This mutual effort results in financial and environmental benefits for everyone.”

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“As one of our largest customers, the Airport Authority is realizing tremendous energy savings through the time and resources they have devoted to our gridSMART® from AEP Ohio business programs initiative,” explained Williams. “This partnership serves as a great example of how AEP Ohio works with a commercial client to pinpoint energy solutions that produce cash incentives to help them offset up-front equipment costs, reduce payback time and save on monthly electric bills. These incentives can also be used toward future energy efficiency improvements.”

The Airport Authority continues to be actively engaged in measuring and managing energy usage at its airports. The Airport Authority is currently implementing HVAC and lighting projects that should qualify for rebate awards in 2011 with several similar projects to follow in 2012.

“When deciding what energy-efficient projects in which to invest Authority resources, we take a simple, practical approach. It must be affordable, sustainable and offer a good return on our investment,” said Roberts.

The [Columbus Regional Airport Authority](#) operates Port Columbus International Airport, Rickenbacker International Airport and Bolton Field Airport in Columbus, Ohio. For more information about the Airport Authority’s energy efficiency initiatives, contact [Connie Tracy](#) at 614-239-3322. For information pertaining to AEP Ohio’s gridSMART® initiative that includes financial incentive programs for business and government customers, contact [Shelly Haugh](#) at 330-438-7911.

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