The Stanwood Energy Challenge pulls together 16 Stanwood businesses, in 2 teams of 8, in a competition to see which team can save the most energy. The Challenge began February 3 and runs five months, through June 2014. Each team is equipped with a real-time energy monitor, an energy assessment, and energy-saving ideas they can use right away. Snohomish PUD sponsors the Challenge; PECI coordinates it. This is the first of 16 participant profiles.

Profile: Coastal Community Bank
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Spokesman: Andy Egloff, Vice President

Why did your business decide to participate in the Stanwood Energy Challenge?

“Coastal Community Bank joined the Stanwood Energy Challenge because it’s a great way to promote our bank, promote our community, and it sounded like a fun, free challenge. And to get the word out there about Stanwood being proactive about energy conservation, and it’s a great town to work and live in! (And I’m also involved in the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce.)”

“Our employees are very excited about the Challenge. There’s a lot of kind of eye-opening things going on around here, from the light bulbs to the computer terminals. Little things you can do that you don’t really think about on a daily basis. And it’s all in good fun!”

How closely do you look at your utility bills?

“Here, I actually don’t. That all goes to our main branch in Everett, but hopefully this’ll help open up some eyes.”
What energy saving measures did you do before the Challenge started?

“We did start turning our monitors off, kind of sporadically, not as religiously as we do now. Same thing with the settings on the thermostat, but that’s something that we certainly are much more aware of now because of the Energy Challenge.”

What have you learned so far? Any surprises?

“One of them was that the thermostat wasn’t set as low or as high as it could be, so we were wasting some energy there. One of the other things we were made aware of is that our servers – I guess there’s a program built into most servers nowadays that they can shut themselves down or at least go into a sleep mode automatically. So that was interesting.

There’s a couple of other things we can add to the building as well, that were pointed out to us to help conserve energy. We’re looking to possibly add some shades to the windows for heat retention in the building, and we’re thinking about our big peaked ceilings and fan options for air circulation.

What changes have you made so far?

“We turned down the hot-water heater, just 10 degrees or so, which is one thing nobody noticed. We adjusted the thermostat to when the building is occupied and when it isn’t. And we set it down one or two degrees, making it just a little bit cooler in here during the wintertime – it’s not uncomfortable; and turning off our monitors at night, turning off our calculators, just little things like that.”

Any comments from customers or family members about our participation in the Challenge?

“The word is definitely out there. We’re trying to spread the word through the Chamber and drawing interest with a couple of the posters that the PUD gave us. Some people are starting to ask, and the town is starting to talk about it a little bit, and I think there’s an article coming up in the newspaper too.”

“And just within the other businesses competing as well, it’s just fun to interact with them, and give the competition a hard time, and give the people on our team support.”

Any advice for other businesses?

“I think the primary thing I’ve learned is just to think about and be aware of little things. Really simple things that you probably already do at home, like turn lights off in a room that you’re not using, think about your thermostat and where it’s set, think about your hot-water heater and where it’s set. I would think that just being aware of little things probably make a difference as far as energy consumption.”