**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Seattle reducing energy use in city-owned buildings
*City Releases 2nd Annual Report on Energy Efficiency in Municipal Buildings***

**SEATTLE** (December 18, 2014) – Today, the City of Seattle released its second annual energy use report on municipal buildings. The report, “[Seattle Municipal Buildings 2012 – 2013 Energy Performance Report](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/2014-12-11%20EnergyPerformanceReport_2013_FINAL.pdf),” includes data for 8.1 million square feet of City-owned buildings. The report covers all buildings 10,000 square feet and above as well as all public service facilities such as community centers, libraries, fire stations and police stations.

“Leading by example and demonstrating transparency are two things we are committed to in Seattle”, said Mayor Ed Murray. “Reducing our energy performance and sharing the results with the community is one of the best ways we can encourage better energy performance across the city.”

While the report highlights the challenges building owners face in keeping energy costs down—including increased staffing, operating hours, and electric plug loads—it also clearly demonstrates that energy efficiency improvements can be highly effective. Highlights include:

* Buildings that received energy efficiency improvements in the last year reduced energy use, some nearly 20%;
* At branch libraries, operational and mechanical improvements reduced energy use between 10 to 19%;
* Lighting upgrades at the Hiawatha Community Center gym resulted in a 10% energy use reduction;
* A full retrofit of lighting, boilers and controls at Loyal Heights Community Center resulted in a nearly 20% reduction in energy use.

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Seattle has more energy efficiency investments planned. The City’s [Resource Conservation Management Plan](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/RCMP_2013_FINAL.pdf), adopted in 2013, established a goal of reducing energy use in City buildings 20% by 2020. To keep the City on track to meet its goal, Seattle’s 2015-2016 budget includes a $3.1 million investment in energy efficiency improvements at 15 facilities. Combined, these projects are expected to reduce the City’s total energy use by 3% (23.5 million kBtu) and save $310,900 in utility costs annually.

Reducing energy use in City facilities is a key component of the Seattle Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce the overall energy use in Seattle’s building stock 45% for commercial buildings and 63% for residential buildings by 2050. To date, Seattle’s overall building energy use has dropped just 2% from 2008 to 2012. To accelerate energy savings, the Mayor has asked the Office of Sustainability & Environment to work with city departments and stakeholders in 2015 to develop a suite of incentives, programs and requirements that keep Seattle on track to achieve its energy efficiency and climate change goals in the building sector.

“Seattle’s leadership in tackling climate change continues to be an important issue for myself and my council colleagues, and it starts with finding energy savings in our City buildings” said Councilmember Mike O’Brien. “I’m looking forward to working with the Office of Sustainability & Environment and community stakeholders in developing the right tools to continue driving energy efficiency improvements throughout our city.”

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