

The Annual Report from our commission in past years has included an analysis of the County's electric, natural gas, and water use for all county buildings as well as the analysis of the County's fuel use. The current year is compared with previous year and the difference in energy use from year to year is determined. This year we have discovered a series of problems that have caused us to decide that restructuring the excel documents is necessary and consequently we will not have utility and fleet data for this year's report.. This is a result of a combination of decisions over the last two years that created the need for revision of the spreadsheets.

In 2014 our group decided to apply a process called temperature normalization to the raw utility data that was obtained from utility bills. This process allows us to truly see any savings from increased efficiency in our heating and cooling systems by removing the effect of hotter or cooler than average days. If you have less gas use, you can tell if it is from a more efficient building or a warmer winter. This year (2015 data) we went to another version of temperature normalization to match the report we are getting from Honeywell, a contractor that has done significant energy efficiency work on County buildings in 2015 and has a contract to guarantee the County a certain level of savings. As the County's SPEA Fellow and Sustainability Coordinator began to work on the existing spreadsheets she found errors and issues and determined that the best approach would be to restructure the excel spreadsheets and streamline data entry. This will minimize human error and provide more timely and accurate reports now and in the future. Unfortunately this means that we will not have data for this year's report and no year to year comparison. We look forward to a better energy use analysis system after the restructuring of the spreadsheets is complete.

Dave Parsons  
March 9, 2016

Message from Megan--

Due to the errors and issues found in compiling data and beginning analysis for the 2015 Annual Report, it was proposed to the Commissioners to end work on this report and, instead, begin a new report for the future. This new report consists of streamlining data entry and automating the excel document in order to minimize human error in the analysis portion of the Annual Report. Consistency in entries, computations, and analysis will provide a better quality report and will better measure sustainability in the County. I have been working extensively with Jerry Ulrey to develop the new process and am hopeful this will be informative and easy to navigate for future Fellows, members of EQuAS, and sustainability coordinators.

In lieu of analysis in the 2015 Annual Report, I suggest the Commission still provides a letter from the chair and the year in review. This will provide the Commissioners and citizens of Monroe County information in regards to programs, policies, and events hosted, suggested, and sponsored by EQuAS. In addition to such writing, I can provide a piece explaining the new process as well as why the analysis portion of the report is no longer available.