

CSKT commits to energy audits, plans for the future

FLATHEAD RESERVATION — The CSKT has been moving forward in a strategic manner to implement the vision of building a more sustainable society while restoring a sustainable environment. With the help of a United States Department of Energy Grant, the Tribal Facilities Maintenance Department has hired a contractor to accomplish ASHRAE Level III Energy Audits on approximately 40 existing Tribal Buildings. Under the leadership of Willie Stevens (Facilities Manager), the Tribal Facilities Maintenance Department is working with DC Engineering of Missoula to study each of the buildings energy use and establish measures to save energy and create a safer environment for the building occupants.

The CSKT established the Flathead Reservation Comprehensive Resources



Carl Espinoza and Travis Miller use infrared imaging to assess heat loss. (courtesy photo)

Plan with the objective "To pursue energy conservation measures for all future construction projects and existing Tribal facilities". In May of 2010, the Tribe created the Tribal Department of Energy (TDOE); part of its mission is the goal of promoting energy conservation

measures for all Tribal departments and agencies.

The Tribal Facilities Maintenance staff that includes Lisa Fiddler, Carl Espinoza, Royal Deranleau and Brad Herrod, have been involved with the Engineering team's study of each building. When problems are discovered

during the site visits, the Tribes Facilities staff quickly address the problems.

When the problems are urgent and life threatening, Tribal Contractors like Big Sky Heating and Air Conditioning have been able to immediately respond and correct the problems. The maintenance staff's

knowledge of the existing Tribal buildings provides very important information for the Engineers. The Maintenance staff's suggestions for possible energy conservation measures for each building will be evaluated by the Engineering Team through computer simulation.

The DC Engineering team is following the Facilities Maintenance objectives of reducing the use of fossil fuels; standardizing temperature controls; and promoting the use of sustainable energy in the Tribal buildings studied. Travis Miller PE leads the DC Team with his experience in energy consumption modeling. Travis has extensive experience with the DOE eQuest software that predicts energy savings while comparing different energy conservation measures. Larry Palmer brings an

enormous database of electrical engineering and construction expertise to the DC Team. Richard Goldberg compliments the DC Team with his 34 years of engineering design and construction experience. The DC Engineering Team listens to what the occupants of each building have to contribute. This is necessary for a full understanding of the building, its use and any problems the building users encounter on a daily basis.

The CSKT is dedicated to energy conservation while protecting the environment. The CSKT energy audits of Tribally owned buildings is a large step towards creating an awareness of energy usage and setting the foundation of a more energy wise future for all Tribal members. The greater usage of sustainable energy as an energy source by the Tribe helps to insure an environmentally safe future.