

# Bright ideas

## Memorial moves ahead with this energy efficiency plans

The Department of Facilities Management and Honeywell have been proceeding on a project which will see the university campus become more energy efficient. The \$13 million project was launched in September 2006. The project is enabling the university to offset the impact of rising energy costs while reducing maintenance costs and improving comfort for its more than 20,000 students, faculty and staff.

The work, focused on eight buildings on the St. John's campus, includes infrastructure upgrades, such as new lighting and heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) equipment; improvements to mechanical systems; and upgrades to building automation systems to optimize energy management across the university. Wherever possible, energy-efficient technologies will replace older, less-efficient systems – reducing electricity, fuel consumption and related costs.

Memorial will finance the work from the energy and operational savings the improvements will generate. Honeywell guarantees those savings – projected to be about \$1.5 million per year over the next 14 years – under a performance contract with the university. This ensures the project will be self funded and will not place an additional burden on the university's budgets.

Some of the project achievements to date include:

- Lighting upgrades in the Education Building.
- Upgrade of the Engineering building “envelope” (weather-stripping, windows, ceilings and doors).
- Heating reflectors have been installed on wall heaters in the Engineering Building to increase efficiency.
- Valves and pumps in mechanical rooms in Engineering have been upgraded with insulated jackets. These upgrades have made a significant difference to the heating distribution system.
- New high-efficiency motors have been installed in the Engineering Building. New variable frequency drives have been installed to regulate fan speeds which lowers electricity use overall.

In addition, a number of information sessions have been conducted for staff members in both the Education and Engineering Buildings who were kept apprised of the work. Information sessions were also arranged for Facilities Management staff including electricians, carpenters and plumbers.

Honeywell began its involvement in the project by identifying areas where upgrades would have a significant effect on energy efficiency and building improvements. Once the engineering audit and report was complete, Honeywell and Memorial jointly planned the project, choosing the measures with the greatest impact.

Work began in the QE II Library this summer.