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| **Monday, March 31, 2014 140331-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: March 2014**  **Metro Explores New Green Energy Options with Wind Turbine in Subway Tunnel** |
| **Metro Monthly Green Tips: March 2014**  Green tips are applicable both at work and at home. This month’s green tips focuses on what green choices and actions you can make that affect occupant health and building operations. Building occupants have a huge effect on building budgets and operations that can contribute to greening their environments.   1. **Green Spring Cleaning**   Spring has sprung and it’s time to get things tidied up for the new season. One of the best ways to make your living and work spaces safer and healthier is by making your own cleaners. This month, try phasing out the use of chemical-filled cleaners at home and at work. You may be surprised at how effective basic household ingredients such as lemons, salt, baking soda, and vinegar can be to get the job done.   1. **Go with the [Air] Flow**   The ability to breathe fresh, clean air is as essential as drinking fresh, clean water. It is important to periodically check air vents and filters to ensure good indoor air quality. Make sure vents are free of debris, such as papers and wrappers, and that air filters are replaced regularly. According to ENERGY STAR, it takes as much as 25% more energy to pump air into spaces if vents are blocked.   1. **ThINK Savings**   Aside from saving paper at the office, have you ever thought about saving on ink expenses? We all know how expensive it can be to replace ink cartridges. Next time you need to make an ink run, save the cartridges to be refilled at a local office supply store for half the price of a new one. Many stores also take empty cartridges to recycle.  By implementing this month’s green tips into your daily life, you’ll help contribute to a healthier, greener environment.  **Metro Explores New Green Energy Options with Wind Turbine in Subway Tunnel**  Metro Environmental Compliance Services staff has recently received the final report on the mass airflow collection equipment (MACE) pilot program. From August through September 2013, Metro conducted a one-month pilot program to see if wind energy could safely and effectively be captured and used. The project involved working with engineers from WWT Tunnel, LLC, a subcontractor to Arcadis U.S., to create and install a unique 10-foot MACE in the Metro Red Line tunnel. To our knowledge, this is the first time a transit agency has tested the effect of having a wind turbine in a subway tunnel.  The MACE was installed between the North Hollywood and Universal City stations, a segment of the tunnel that sees trains reaching speeds of up to 70 mph. Each time a train left the station, the MACE fan blades would start spinning, capturing energy up to a minute before the train actually passed by. The blades would continue to spin up to two minutes after the train passed, and exceeded 1,070 revolutions per minute (RPM). The amount of electricity produced by these train initiated events was nearly double the amount that had originally been anticipated. This is great news for Metro as the agency strives to become greener. The MACE can safely and efficiently collect clean electrical power from wind that is already being produced by passing trains. Due to the regularity of the speed and schedule of Metro trains, the power generated is far more reliable than above-ground wind and solar power, and the electrical power generated can be used in various ways, such as powering electric vehicle charging stations, station and tunnel lights, escalators and more.  Over the next year, Metro staff will follow up with a report evaluating the best use of MACE generated power and the feasibility of installing MACE into existing and new rail line tunnels, including the Regional Connector, the Purple Line Extension and the underground segments of the Crenshaw/LAX Line. For more information on this project, please contact Tom Kefalas at [KefalasT@metro.net](mailto:KefalasT@metro.net). | |
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