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GEORGIA TECH COMPLETES ENERGY PLAN
FOR SAVANNAH HOSPITAL

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For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA.....Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station (EES) recently completed an energy conservation plan for Saint Joseph's Hospital in Savannah that will enable the hospital to reduce energy use and cut energy costs, according to State Senator John Riley, chairman of the board for Saint Joseph's.

Sen. Riley says that the just-completed Georgia Tech energy management and conservation plan provides the means for the hospital to reduce costs by monitoring energy use and planning hospital-wide cutbacks.

"A savings of $100,000 is already anticipated for the next year, thanks to this energy plan," states Sen. Riley. "This is almost one-third the amount the hospital spent last year for energy use."

The energy conservation plan, which took six months to complete, is part of a two-year-old program developed by Experiment Station engineers to aid hospitals, local government and public institutions in establishing energy conserving procedures.

The Saint Joseph's plan, conducted by EES's Doris Willmer and Grant Curtis, contained four parts. In part one, Willmer and Curtis studied hospital energy use over a five-year period. The engineers found that while the hospital uses

less energy than it did five years ago, it is now paying almost three times as much for it. The Savannah hospital paid about $340,000 in fiscal year 1977 for almost 94,000 million BTU's of energy; in 1972 the facility paid $135,000 for just over 100,000 million BTU's of energy.

Willmer explains that lower energy use but higher energy costs seems to be a current trend and is not likely to change in the near future due to revised rate structures, fuel adjustments and across-the-board increases.

In the second part of the plan, Tech engineers worked with the hospital management -- administrators, directors and department heads -- in setting up a successful energy savings program for total hospital staff participation.

The plan's third part involved the use of Georgia Tech's Thermovision capability -- an infrared device used to locate and measure heat loss from walls, windows, roofs and equipment. The instrument projects and records, through various electronic processes, a picture called a thermograph. From this thermograph, engineers can detect heat loss from buildings or parts of buildings such as aluminum frames around windows, air vents, brick walls and window panes.

The effective use of thermographs to detect heat loss will be used more frequently by Georgia Tech as it continues the energy management and conservation program.

In the fourth part of the energy plan, Willmer and Curtis recommended several areas where Saint Joseph's staff could start implementing energy conservation measures. Some of these areas are: the chilled water machines and blower operation of the air conditioning system; boiler operations; hot water service; and boiler feedwater tank insulation. Other areas include:

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roof insulation; window treatment; air conditioning load reset; lighting reductions; and the laundry area.

According to Willmer, many of the recommendations made for Saint Joseph's can be applied to most hospitals. However, the engineer points out that the types of recommendations made are dependent on the site of the hospital, the age of the facility and the type of building design.

Of three Georgia hospitals that have participated in Georgia Tech's EES energy plan, two have begun active conservation programs -- Saint Joseph's and the Sam Howell Memorial Hospital in Cartersville. According to Willmer, Saint Joseph's is the only hospital in southeast Georgia to put into effect an energy plan of this type.

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