

# ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

The 1974 energy crisis provides an opportunity to evaluate the managerial procedures and operational techniques required for high turfgrass standards so vital to achievement of environmental beauty and ecological balance. We suggest a review and consideration of the management of budget, facilities, equipment, turfgrass and people.

### BUDGET

- · Budget for increasingly higher prices.
- Expect delays in deliveries of most products and supplies.
- Fuel costs represent some 2-3% of the total budget, whereas labor is estimated to be 65-70%.
- Should fuel costs double or triple, the major savings still will accrue through efficient management of the labor factor.
- Evaluate your equipment fleet against the tasks to be done.
- New capital expenditures for higher capacity, more efficient mowing and irrigation equipment will save both in labor and fuel expenditures.

#### FACILITIES

- Lower working temperatures in office and shop.
- Minimize interior and exterior lighting.
- Seek alternate heating methods and do not heat or cool non-essential areas.
- Consider use of insulation throughout the facility.

## EQUIPMENT

 Keep engines tuned—adjust carburetor and ignition.

- Keep air cleaner and combustion chamber clean.
- Keep equipment properly adjusted and lubricated.
- Keep blades sharp to reduce friction loss.
- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Review owner's manual.
- Establish preventive maintenance procedures. **TURFGRASS**
- Review all cultural practices and techniques.
- Test soils to determine pH and nutrient levels.
- Review fertilizer programs and products.
- Evaluate watering schedules frequency, amount and timing.
- Correct all drainage problem area.
- Evaluate mowing schedules frequency, timing, location.
- Evaluate adaptation and use of turfgrass varieties you now have versus characteristics to be found in "new" improved selections.
- Evaluate height of cut in relation to type of mowing equipment.
- Cultivate to insure efficient use of fertilizer, water and chemicals.
- Use pesticides wisely and maintain adequate programs for control of all pests, weeds, insects and diseases.

#### PEOPLE

- Review all tasks and establish priorities.
- Schedule equipment use to attain maximum efficiency.
- Retrain operators on mowing techniques, equipment operation and adjustment.

