



## Increasing Government Building Energy Efficiency

USAID funded an energy efficiency demonstration project in the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) building during April-December 2003. The new PURC office is an excellent example of energy efficiency. This project showcases for Armenia a new approach to creating an environmentally safe and comfortable work space while minimizing energy costs. For instance, using natural gas heating will cost nearly a quarter as much as using electricity in Armenia. The expected annual savings due to increasing energy efficiency estimated to be \$9,000.



Photo: USAID/Armenia

### Before

In Armenia, utility expenses comprise a large share of the tight budget at state and municipal institutions. Therefore, when the reconstruction of the PURC building began, one of the major tasks was to propose an energy efficient system that would provide an appropriate comfort level in the office at a relatively low cost. The PURC wanted a system installed that would serve as a model for others in Armenia.

### After

The newly installed heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system is operated with natural gas and electricity. In addition, the building has an energy efficient fluorescent lighting system that is cheaper than incandescent lighting. Energy efficient windows and doors have been installed that help to reduce heat losses. Doors in the building are placed where they isolate hot and cold zones, thus increasing efficiency.



Photo: USAID/Armenia

*“This project marked a successful example of the cooperation between USAID and PURC which we hope to continue in the future.”*

*-PURC Chairman Robert Nazaryan, at the opening ceremony of the building.*

