



# Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

*Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.*

## Program Update — August 2005 *for Commercial Design and Construction Professionals*

### Status: 16 Weeks into Program

In the 16 weeks since the Building Efficiency program was kicked off, we've received 21 Expressions of Interest.

Over 70 percent of those are new buildings. The total floor space adds up to over a half million square feet with total project construction costs of nearly \$35 million.

Most of the projects are in the Treasure Valley. They average three to four measures with the most common ones being high efficiency exit signs and lighting designs that exceed code by 10 percent.

One project has been completed and paid (more below). Seven projects are nearly completed and have applications for incentive payments. These projects are expected to save over 100,000 kWh/year and cut peak demand by nearly 34 kW when they're completed.

### First Incentive Payment Made

Idaho Youth Ranch's newly remodeled thrift store on Chinden Blvd. in Garden City was the first project completed. The Youth Ranch earned \$750 for reflective roof treatment and occupancy sensors — design changes made during the renovation of this space.

### Earn a Commissioning Bonus

Commissioning is a third-party double-check that the building (or specific system) operates as it was designed. Any project can earn a commissioning bonus.

An added bonus of up to 20 percent of the incentive can be earned. For a project set to get a \$15,000 incentive, a whole building commissioning bonus could give them a \$3,000 larger payment to cover their added costs.

The commissioning agent needs to be approved by Idaho Power first. Call for a Pre-Approval form. More information on commissioning is on the Building Commissioning Association Web site ([www.bcx.org](http://www.bcx.org)).

### Remember the Program Timelines

One of the most common program questions has to do with the timeline. A project has to start after April 15, 2005 (when

the program was kicked off). Projects including equipment purchased and installed prior to that date cannot qualify for this incentive program.

There are also questions about the Dec. 15, 2005 program deadline. That date is when the project needs to be completed and an application submitted in order to be paid under this program. For projects that won't be completed until later, there *will* be a program next year and beyond. It's just that some incentive levels (or other details) could be slightly different than this year's program. And, don't forget, there's still time to get as much as \$20,000 for projects that will be completed this year.

### Upcoming Training Opportunity

The Idaho chapter of the US Green Building Council has scheduled their August program, "Underfloor Distribution Design & Applications." This event will be a brown bag lunch on Aug. 25 starting at noon. It will be held at the Ada County Courthouse (200 W. Front Street, Boise).

### Why Submit an Expression of Interest?

The Expression of Interest is a simple form on the Idaho Power Web site (see link below). It's not required for a Building Efficiency incentive, but it's encouraged. It helps us know who's planning to apply, for what, and when. It's also helpful for the applicant (and their design team) to start a dialog with Idaho Power about their project.

### For More Program Information

Do you know of any projects, planned or underway, that may qualify for this incentive? Are the owners or developers unaware of this program? If so, please share this information with them. For answers to other questions, call Curt Nichols at (208) 388-6484.