



# Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

*Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.*

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

### Program Activity Update

As of Sept. 15, the Building Efficiency program has received 29 expressions of interest, 12 incentive applications, and five incentive payment requests.

Of the 29 pre-apps, the average project size is about 20,000 square feet with an approximate value of \$1.5 million.

### Another Incentive Payment Made

A new raft rental building in Boise's Barber Park was the second project to receive a Building Efficiency payment.

The Ada County facility was built with occupancy sensors and more energy-saving features. They were able to qualify a green, vegetated roof and an evaporative cooling system under the categories of reflective roof treatment and premium efficiency AC units, respectively.

Ada County earned over \$2,000 for the new building's design features. A check was presented to them at their annual Rebuild Ada County Partnership Meeting in August.

### It's Not Too Late If Work's Already Started

It's not too late to make modifications that can save energy and earn incentives. Measures can be added late to a project's design or even after construction is underway.

Exit signs, occupancy sensors, and roof treatment are three things that are most easily changed. Even if much of the design is established, design specifications can be changed to save energy and qualify for incentive payments.

It's almost never too late. And, for projects well out in the future, it's never too early. The sooner you consider energy efficient design options, the greater your energy saving opportunities and the larger incentive you can receive.

### More Information on Qualifying Designs

When completing the online "Expression of Interest" form, there's an option to request more information on any of the technologies eligible for incentives.

Wondering about daylighting? Just request more information and you can get either electronic or paper copies of daylighting details.

Background information is available on all the other eligible measures too – efficient lighting, air conditioning, controls, roofs, windows, and exit signs.

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

Idaho Power and the Integrated Design Lab (IDL) are pleased to announce their fall series of BetterBricks classes.

The fall series will kick off with a Sept. 22 class on Daylighting Design. Classes will be held at IDL (108 N. 6 St.) from 5:00–6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Also, it's not too early to plan to attend the Idaho Energy Conference (Oct. 13–14). More details on this event are available at the [2005 Idaho Energy Conference](#).

### Defining "Major Renovation"

The Building Efficiency program targets all commercial construction. That includes new buildings, expansions and additions, and major renovations.

Major renovations are projects that involve professional design services, require review by code authorities, and involve substantial replacement of two building systems or components (building shell, lighting, HVAC, etc).

Existing building retrofit incentives may be offered in the future. At this time, retrofit projects do not qualify under the Building Efficiency program.

### 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.