



# Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

*Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.*

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

### Happy Holidays!

At this special time of the year, all of us at Idaho Power wish to extend our warmest wishes. May you enjoy the season and a prosperous – and efficient – new year.

### Dec. 15 - Early Bird Bonus Deadline

There's still time to earn the Building Efficiency special early-bird bonus. Remember, all completed projects with incentive applications turned in by Dec. 15 will receive two 2006 Green Building wall calendars.

### How to use the Integrated Design Lab

Many of the most efficient new commercial designs have had extensive analysis and modeling done at the Integrated Design Lab (IDL) in Boise.

The IDL offers a number of services including daylighting consultations, daylight modeling, and building energy modeling. Consultations are intended to begin early in a project and can continue throughout the process. Daylight consultation discusses site and building placement, room and window configurations, and specific window details.

The subsequent designs can be modeled to test design ideas during the schematic design and design development phase. The IDL uses a variety of energy modeling tools to generate estimated yearly energy loads and utility costs.

The Lab also hosts a variety of training and education events and helps design teams with the utility incentive application process and more.

To learn more about any of these IDL services, visit the Web site at [www.uidaho.edu/idl](http://www.uidaho.edu/idl).

### Reflective Roofs: Winter Performance

Idaho Power's Building Efficiency program pays five cents per square foot for reflective roof treatment on new buildings. Reflective roofing can save a lot of energy in the summer by reflecting away the heat that would otherwise be absorbed by the roof.

During the winter months, the loss of beneficial heat gain isn't an issue due to low sun angle, shorter days, increased cloud cover, and occasional snow cover.

Even dark flat roofs don't absorb much heat when the sun is low and the days are short. According to Hashem Akbari, a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Heat Island Group staff scientist, the only building that won't benefit from a cool roof energy-wise is one that's not air-conditioned.

### Program Extension Reminder

Last month's Program Update noted that the Building Efficiency incentives have been extended through 2006. That bears repeating since many of you may have early copies of program materials that refer to 2005 or the Dec. 15, 2005 deadline.

If you would like new program materials, just go to the Building Efficiency Web site (see link at bottom of page) and download the revised brochure, application form, and program FAQs.

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

It's not too early to look ahead to next year for training opportunities. Mark your calendar for this January date.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Idaho chapter is hosting a LEED™ training class on January 27. This will be a full day seminar that can help you become a LEED™ Accredited Professional. For more details on this seminar, go to [www.usgbcidaho.org](http://www.usgbcidaho.org).

### 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.