



# Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

*Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.*

## Program Update — February 2006 *for Commercial Design and Construction Professionals*

### Program Expands Into Oregon

Last month, the Oregon Public Utility Commission approved Idaho Power's request to offer the Building Efficiency program in Oregon. Now, commercial construction projects in our Oregon service area are eligible for the same incentives that have been offered in Idaho since last April.

### Business ENERGY Tools Now Available

Small and mid-sized commercial businesses now have access to an expanded suite of ENERGY Tools on Idaho Power's Web site. The tools are available by signing up as an Account Manager through E-Services and by logging onto [www.idahopower.com/energytools](http://www.idahopower.com/energytools).

Customers need their latest bill that includes their account number, service agreement number and last meter reading to register as an Account Manager.

Once a brief business profile is completed, usage information is correlated with the account to produce a custom energy use profile that can help business owners learn how to use energy more efficiently and save on their electric bills.

### Energy-Saving Exit Sign Options

Legally required illuminated exit signs are an important safety feature in any building. In case of an emergency, their operation is critical. By design, exit signs operate and use energy 24 hours per day.

Many exit signs in existing buildings still use older incandescent and fluorescent lighting technologies. An older exit sign can consume over 350 kilowatt-hours (kWh) and cost \$18 annually to operate. In addition, many older exit signs require frequent maintenance due to their short lamp life.

In recent years, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used to illuminate exit signs. Other efficient exit sign options include the use of cold cathode, electroluminescent or self-luminous light sources. All these signs draw fewer than seven watts and some use much less.

Whatever type you select, look for the ENERGY STAR® logo. All ENERGY STAR® qualified exit signs require the use of five watts per face or less. You can earn a Building Efficiency incentive of \$20 time you specify the most efficient of the ENERGY STAR® exit signs (which draw four watts per sign face or less).

### Program Participant Survey Results

After the incentive is paid, Building Efficiency program participants are given an opportunity to evaluate the program. They rate the program staff, Web site and application process. When early program participants were asked about their overall impression, 83 percent of those surveyed "strongly agreed" that they received excellent service and value from Idaho Power. We appreciate your input. Please let us know how we're doing especially if you see opportunities for improvement.

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

The Lighting Design Lab is sponsoring two lighting design classes taught by Eric Strandberg in Boise on March 9. The morning class focuses on fixture selection while the afternoon class focuses on lighting controls in day-lit spaces. To register for either class, go to [www.lightingdesignlab.com/classes](http://www.lightingdesignlab.com/classes).

### 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.