



Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.

Program Update — May 2006 for Commercial Design and Construction Professionals

Program Activity Update

In May, the Building Efficiency program made its largest incentive payment to date. As part of a major renovation at the Council Elementary and Council High Schools, Idaho Power provided the Council School District with two incentive payments totaling over \$24,000.

The Council School District updated the lighting throughout both schools, added occupancy sensor controls, and installed more efficient air conditioning equipment. These upgrades are expected to cut their energy use by more than 96,000 kilowatt-hours per year. This is equal to the total energy use in seven average-sized Idaho homes and will save Council approximately \$4,800 per year.

A Construction Success Story

The Front 5 building in Boise was recently granted LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. It is a local success story of building reuse, energy efficiency, and recognition for green design features.

The Front 5 building, designed by cole + poe architects, is the first new building in Idaho to become LEED™-certified. Their design allows for daylighting, includes efficient cooling, and many other features. Learn more at www.colepoe.com/green.

Daylighting Controls

If you design a building with daylighting in mind, as much as 40 percent of the building's lighting needs can be supplied by natural daylight. With the right building orientation, window design, and space layout, you can take advantage of all the benefits that come from daylighting.

One benefit is lower energy costs. That can only be assured with proper daylighting controls.

Building Efficiency projects can earn an incentive of \$.25 per square foot for daylit spaces. If this incentive is combined with a lighting design that is 20% below the

maximum lighting power density in Idaho code, they can earn an additional incentive for the added efficiency.

The combination of lower lighting power densities and reduced electrical lighting operation can mean lower cooling loads, too. That may even mean smaller air conditioning systems with lower initial capital costs as well as reduced ongoing operating costs.

For projects that are early enough in the design process to consider daylighting, the compounded savings—and incentives available—can make it a wise investment in any building. For more details on daylighting designs, go to www.uidaho.edu/idl.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

On May 12, the BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) Energy Efficiency Program will offer a two-hour Web-based training session on benchmarking existing building energy use. This webcast will be downlinked at the Idaho Energy Division offices in Boise. If you want to attend this free event, please contact Tim O'Leary at (208) 287-4902 or at tim.oleary@idwr.idaho.gov to RSVP.

On May 18, the BetterBricks "Naturally Cool" spring series continues with a class on Adaptive Comfort. This class will be held at the Integrated Design Lab in Boise from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. To RSVP for this free class, please link to www.betterbricks.com/default.aspx?pid=events. For more details on the other classes in these sessions, please call Ken Baker at (208) 861-5736.

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.