



Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.

Program Update — July 2006 *for Commercial Design and Construction Professionals*

Program Activity Update

The deadline for this year's Building Efficiency incentive applications is December 15, 2006. Completed projects should be submitted for payment no later than that date.

Projects that won't be completed until later will be able to receive incentive payments under a revised Building Efficiency program. Next year's program details will be announced in the fall.

Local Test of New Air Conditioning Units

Desert CoolAire, a promising new rooftop package air conditioning (AC) unit with an indirect evaporative heat exchanger, is being tested at a large retailer in Boise. The system is extensively monitored and results show that most of the necessary cooling could be provided by the heat exchanger.

On a recent 97-degree day, the heat exchanger provided about 30 degrees of cooling—requiring the compressor section to contribute only 12 degrees of cooling for a supply temperature of about 55 degrees. Under more moderate conditions, the monitoring showed that the evaporative cooling alone usually could meet the entire cooling load.

A second Desert CoolAire unit is planned for installation in Nampa in July 2006 and a full report on performance of both prototype units will be completed in the spring of 2007.

Meanwhile, incentives are still available for efficient AC units. Smaller units (five tons and less) with a SEER 13 rating can qualify for payment if installed and paid this year. The minimum efficiency for qualifying small AC units next year will be higher since SEER 13 performance is now mandated by federal regulation.

BetterBricks Awards are Back

The Idaho 2006 BetterBricks Awards are returning for a third year. Nominations are now open.

These awards recognize architects, engineers, developers, building owners, building operators, facility managers, service providers and other building professionals for their support, use, and design of sustainable, high-performance commercial buildings with a special emphasis on energy efficiency.

The BetterBricks Awards, which recognize the people behind Idaho's best projects, will be presented in Boise on October 4, 2006. Visit www.betterbricksawards.com for more details.

If you know of anyone that should be nominated for these awards—including yourself—please submit an application no later than September 6, 2006.

Upcoming Training Opportunity

It's not just commercial buildings that can benefit from energy-saving designs. Later this month, the local US Green Building Council (USGBC) chapter is sponsoring a LEED™ for Homes class.

USGBC is putting on an all-day seminar focusing on "green" home design options. The cost to attend this class is \$40 for the full day, \$20 for the half day, or \$7 for the USGBC monthly lunch program at noon.

Please RSVP by July 18, 2006 for this session to Shelby Stuart at 384-0585 or ShelbyS@musgrovepa.com. More details on this and future USGBC events can be found at www.usgbcidaho.org/events.

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.