



# Building Efficiency for Commercial Construction

*Energy Efficiency Pays. Now More Than Ever.*

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

### Program Activity Update

A number of completed projects have received incentive payments through the Building Efficiency program this year. If your project has been completed but has not yet been paid, it's not too late to request an incentive payment.

The application form is very straightforward and should not take long to complete. Documentation on the energy performance of the products installed is required to ensure the program's requirements have been met. Copies of the invoices for the purchase of those products also need to be provided along with the application.

For projects that will be completed later this year, the deadline for applications under the existing program is December 15. Some changes will be made to the program next year. Projects that have already started and have submitted an "expression of interest" will be eligible for payments under the revised program when they're finished.

### Project Financing Options Available

Idaho Power's incentives can help you "buy down" the cost of enhanced energy efficiency in your building design. However, if additional capital is necessary to complete your project, you should be aware that there are a number of options to obtain those funds.

A number of firms offer performance contracting, providing up-front funds that are repaid out of the monthly energy savings. Some equipment suppliers offer lease-purchases—a financing arrangement that allows the installation of more efficient products without any initial expense. Outside financing, including Low-Interest Energy Loans from the Idaho Energy Division also are an option.

For more energy project financing options, contact the Idaho Energy Division at (208) 287-4800.

### Energy Savings in High Bay Lighting

New fluorescent lighting fixtures can provide significant energy savings over the high-intensity discharge (HID)

lighting frequently installed in buildings with lighting on or near high ceilings (known as "high-bay lighting").

Significant savings can be achieved with T5 HO fluorescent lighting in comparison to HID lighting. In retrofit applications, the savings can be 40 to 50 percent. In new construction, the savings may not be as dramatic. However, the added control flexibility of T5 lighting works well in both new and existing buildings.

These fluorescent fixtures can be used in warehouses, retail facilities, gymnasiums, and most buildings with high ceilings. For more details on T5 HOs and other energy saving lighting designs, go to the Lighting Design Lab's website at [www.lightingdesignlab.com](http://www.lightingdesignlab.com).

### Upcoming Training Opportunity

It's not too early to plan to attend the Idaho Energy Conference scheduled October 4–6 at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise.

The agenda is still being finalized, but it includes a number of prominent speakers on the topics of energy efficiency, green building design, and much more. Numerous exhibitors will showcase their products and services. If you're interested in being an exhibitor at the Energy Conference, please contact the Association of Idaho Cities, the conference's lead sponsor, at (208) 344-8594.

The 2006 Idaho Energy Conference kicks off with the annual BetterBricks Awards reception. The 2006 award-winners will be unveiled in a reception on the evening of October 4. For more details on the BetterBricks Awards, go to [www.betterbricksawards.com](http://www.betterbricksawards.com).

### For More Program Information

Do you know of any projects, planned or underway, that may qualify for this incentive? Are there owners or developers unaware of this program? If so, please share this information with them. For answers to program questions, call Curt Nichols at (208) 388-6484.