

Building Efficiency UPDATE

April 2008

Program Anniversary

April marked the three-year anniversary for the *Building Efficiency* program. Since April 2005, when the program was first initiated, much has been accomplished. Looking back over the past three years, we have paid out nearly \$1.2 million in incentives for 118 completed projects. Those projects are saving over 6 million kWh/yr. That is enough electricity to power nearly 490 average homes.

Remember, all *Building Efficiency* Final Applications must be submitted within 60 days of project completion. The new deadline took effect in February. Now, projects can be processed, paid, and reported in a more timely manner. Make sure your projects meet that new requirement by promptly filing your Final Applications.

Incentive Interpretation

For the past year, *Building Efficiency* has not offered a specific incentive for evaporative cooling systems. It was intended that they would be treated as more conventional cooling systems and paid an incentive based on their effective energy efficiency ratios (EERs). Because of their very high effective EERs, evaporative system incentives were skewed by that method.

In a recent interpretation, evaporative systems in new construction will be paid an incentive of \$200/ton of cooling capacity, the same amount evaporative cooling equipment retrofits earn in the *Easy Upgrades* program.

New Publications

Remember, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning's (ASHRAE) *Advanced Energy Design Guides* are available at no cost. Their guides provide contractors and designers important tools to be able to achieve up to 30 percent energy savings over designs just meeting ASHRAE Standard 90.1.

Three guides are currently available: K-12 Schools, Small Retail, and Small Office Buildings.

These guides were developed in collaboration with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), and the

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). They can be downloaded from www.ashrae.org/publications/page/1604.

Also, ASHRAE is offering a new quarterly magazine titled *High Performance Buildings*. This magazine aims to help decision-makers in the building community learn about the benefits of using energy wisely through energy efficient design and operation, and will include relevant case studies. This publication is available free for download at www.hpbmagazine.org.

Mark Your Calendar

If you're willing to travel a bit next month, there are a couple of events you may want to attend.

The **West Coast Energy Management Congress (EMC)** will be held in Seattle on May 14-15. It is the largest energy conference and technology expo held on the west coast specifically for business, industrial, and institutional energy users. It brings together the top experts in all areas of the field to help participants set a clear, optimum path to both energy cost control and energy supply security. You can register or learn more at www.aeecenter.org/EMC/.

Another event, **Green Broker**, is an introduction to the green building universe. The event is scheduled for Portland on May 22. It is designed for the commercial real estate and financial communities and promises to provide information needed for a solid introduction of how to treat the fast-growing and ever-more-important green building sector. To learn more, go to www.cascadiagbc.org and search for "Green Broker".

For More Program Information

Do you know of any commercial or industrial construction projects that could benefit from an energy efficient design? If so, we can send you a brochure titled, "Save Energy, Earn Incentives, and Improve your Bottom Line."

For a copy of the brochure, a program overview, or other details about *Building Efficiency* incentives, e-mail Billie McWinn at buildingefficiency@idahopower.com or call her at (208) 388-5871.