

Easy Upgrades UPDATE

May 2007

Program Activity Update

Interest in Easy Upgrades has been growing since the program was unveiled in mid-February. We have answered phone calls, mailed out information, given presentations, and otherwise responded to that interest.

Nearly 30 preliminary applications (pre apps) were submitted through April. Sixty percent of them were for changes to lighting systems while 25 percent have been for HVAC improvements. Most projects have been in office buildings or retail stores. The projected incentive for these pre apps averages about \$3,000.

Also, through April, we have received final documentation for six projects; half of those were for facilities located in Boise and half were office building projects. These projects are saving about 165,000 kWh per year. That means their annual electric bills are about \$8,200 lower than otherwise. The average incentive payment was about \$1,660.

You can learn more about how you can participate in this new program at www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades.

Now Available in Oregon

On May 8 the Oregon Public Utility Commission approved the expansion of Easy Upgrades into Oregon. The same incentives that have been offered in Idaho are also now available in Oregon.

Contractors, vendors, and other trade allies that work in Eastern Oregon have been briefed on the new program's incentives, the application processes, and other details.

Variable Speed Drives and Harmonics

Some variable speed drive (VSD) projects have submitted pre apps. VSDs can help improve efficiency in variably loaded motors. However, they also can cause an electrical disturbance known as harmonics.

Harmonics can have a negative effect on other nearby electrical equipment and even Idaho Power's system. The Public Utility Commissions in both Idaho and Oregon require that all harmonic generating equipment must comply with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Standard 519-1992, "Recommended Practices

and Requirements for Harmonic Control in Electrical Power Systems."

Depending on the size of your VSD project, it may need to have harmonic-mitigating equipment (such as filters) added along with the drives. Allowing your project to meet IEEE Standard 519 is one step toward qualifying for an Easy Upgrades incentive.

To learn more about harmonics and compliance with IEEE Standard 519, contact Idaho Power Senior Engineer Kelly Hulse at (208) 388-6442.

Upcoming Training Opportunity

The Integrated Design Lab (IDL) is offering a workshop in which participants will learn to use handheld instruments for measuring building performance. Groups will conduct a building performance case study while gaining an understanding of objective and subjective procedures for performing evaluations of buildings' performance and energy use.

This workshop is titled, "The Secret Life of Buildings." It will be held at the IDL in Boise on June 7 and 8. The cost for this workshop is \$120 per person. Registration is limited to 30 people. To get more details or reserve your spot, please call Macy Miller at the IDL at (208) 447-6047.

For More Program Information

Do you know of any business or industrial facilities that could benefit from updating their lighting, cooling, or other electric systems? If so, we can send you a program overview brochure titled, "Save Energy, Earn Incentives, and Improve your Bottom Line."

For a copy of the brochure, a program overview, or other details about *Easy Upgrades* incentives, e-mail Curt Nichols at easyupgrades@idahopower.com or call him at (208) 388-6484.