

Easy Upgrades UPDATE

July 2007

Program Activity Update

Interest in *Easy Upgrades* continues to grow. The program was unveiled in Idaho in February and expanded to Oregon in May. We have given program presentations, sent out information, and answered questions from our customers and contractors in both states.

As of mid-July, over 70 preliminary applications (pre-apps) have been submitted. Nearly 60 percent were for lighting upgrades while about 20 percent have been for HVAC improvements. The most common building types are offices and retail stores. The estimated incentive for these pre-apps averages about \$3,000 per project.

Also through mid-July, we processed incentive payments for 30 completed projects. Nine were in Boise and eight were in Pocatello. Almost half were office building projects. These projects are saving over 400,000 kWh per year—a reduction in annual electric bills of about \$20,000. The average incentive payment was just under \$900 per project.

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

Boise's EnviroGuard Awards

For organizations located in Boise, applications for the annual EnviroGuard Awards are available until July 27. If there are Boise firms you feel are doing an exemplary job of energy and environmental management, please suggest they apply, or nominate them yourself. More program information and downloadable applications are available at www.cityofboise.org. Type "EnviroGuard Award" in the "Search" box on the top of that page.

Old Lamp and Ballast Disposal

Easy Upgrades projects require appropriate waste disposal. The incentive program's terms and conditions say: "Any waste generated as a result of this project must be properly disposed or recycled."

What does that mean for old lamps, ballasts, and fixtures removed as part of a lighting retrofit? The Web site for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shows nine Idaho recycling sites (along with a few out-of-state locations) for fluorescent lamps.

For any lighting retrofit project, include language about proper disposal or recycling in your purchase agreements. Make sure that your contractor manages this so as not to create an environmental problem while you're solving an energy waste problem.

To learn more about your old lamp, ballast, and fixture recycling options, visit DEQ's Web site, or contact a DEQ recycling expert at (208) 373-0458, or by e-mail at John.Brueck@deq.idaho.gov.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Building Operator Certification (BOC) is a nationally recognized training and certification program to help building operators improve job skills and operate facilities in a more efficient and comfortable manner.

Training for BOC certification is offered in a series of classes covering a full range of building systems topics. Both Level I (eight one-day classes) and Level II (seven one-day classes) classes are offered regularly in Idaho.

Learn more about BOC during a free one-hour Webcast starting at 9:30 a.m. (MDT) on July 25. To register for this Webcast, go to www.theboc.info.

Planning further ahead, save Sept. 20–21 for the **Building Energy Efficiency Program (BEEP)**. The local Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Boise is bringing this acclaimed series of workshops to Boise along with two special lunch presentations. You can learn more about this event and download BEEP registration forms from www.bomaboise.org.

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.