

# Easy Upgrades UPDATE

## September 2007

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

There are two Lighting Design Lab classes coming to Boise: The Ins and Outs of Lighting Retrofits, and Emerging Lighting Technology and Trends. Both will be held at the Integrated Design Lab (108 N 6th St) on Oct 10. You can register for one or both classes at [Lighting Design Lab Classes](#).

Planning further ahead, the 2007 Idaho Energy and Green Building Conference will be held Oct 24–26 at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise. This year's theme is "Meeting the Sustainability Challenge." The agenda includes the annual BetterBricks Awards and an entire track of green building sessions. You can learn more about this event or register to attend at [Association of Idaho Cities Conference](#).

### An Easy Upgrades Success Story

Performance Chevrolet in Mountain Home was an early participant in the Easy Upgrades program. They felt that the lighting in their shop area was less than ideal.

They had older metal halide fixtures with lower light levels than they really wanted and buzzing ballasts that made the fixtures noisy.

After looking at their lighting improvement options, the Performance Chevrolet owners decided to switch to T5 fluorescent fixtures in the shop.

When the retrofit was completed, they reduced their shop lighting energy by about half, while improving their light levels, and eliminating the ballast noise.

The service staff noted the changes: more light and less noise. The owners appreciated the lower bills—about \$1,200 per year—to go along with an Idaho Power incentive payment of just over \$2,000. Now the lighting at Performance Chevrolet performs too.

Contact your local Idaho Power representative to learn how you can create an Easy Upgrades success story of your own.

### New Residential Incentives Available

Effective Sept 10, Idaho Power unveiled a brand new incentive program targeting energy savings in home heating and cooling systems.

The Heating and Cooling Efficiency program offers cash incentives for residential customers and contractors who purchase properly sized, new energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment and incorporate high standards of installation.

Initially, this program is only available to residential customers in Idaho. Contractor training is also part of this package. You can learn more about this exciting new program at [www.idahopower.com/heatingcooling](http://www.idahopower.com/heatingcooling).

### Program Activity Update

Interest and activity in Easy Upgrades continues to expand. Mid-September marks seven months since the program was first introduced in Idaho.

Through early September, Idaho Power has received nearly 100 preliminary applications (pre-apps). Most projects are for lighting retrofits, with HVAC improvements (equipment and controls) a distant second.

Also through early September, Idaho Power has processed Easy Upgrades incentive payments for 50 completed projects. The largest single incentive payment to date was just over \$10,000 with the average project payment around \$1,800.

In total, the energy savings from completed projects is nearing 1 million kWh/yr—more than enough energy to power 70 typical homes.

Learn more about how you can participate in this program at [www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades](http://www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades).

### 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](mailto:easyupgrades@idahopower.com) or call him at (208) 388-6484.