

Easy Upgrades UPDATE

May 2008

Program Activity Exceeds Expectations

In just over four months, *Easy Upgrades* has received more than 200 preliminary applications and processed more than 160 final applications for payment.

The projects completed so far this year are saving more than 7 million kilowatt hours per year (kWh/yr). That is more than the program accomplished in all of 2007 and represents enough energy to power 530 typical homes.

The projects that have earned incentives so far in 2008 have earned nearly \$470,000 in incentive payments! See how you can get your share of these energy-saving payments at www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades.

Lighting Calculator Testing Underway

Last month, electricians, lighting contractors, and other trade allies were provided with an Excel-based lighting calculator to test.

The calculator is designed to ease the analysis of lighting system retrofit opportunities and expedite the *Easy Upgrades* application process. This tool is still under development. Feedback from using this test version will allow glitches to be corrected and other improvements to be made before it's released more widely.

If you have a test version of this software, please submit your comments by June 5. Just fill in the User Comments form and fax it to 208-388-5750.

Earn Incentives for Economizer Repairs

Easy Upgrades applications for more efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment come in quite frequently. HVAC contractors are encouraging the purchase of programmable thermostats, efficient air conditioning units, and economizers.

It's less well known that, when it comes to economizers, more than just efficient new equipment can earn incentives. Based on studies, many air-side economizers on rooftop package units are not functioning as intended. *Easy Upgrades* offers an incentive to repair those economizers.

The incentive for one-time repairs requires an itemized invoice of corrections, setting adjustments, or other repairs

made. The incentive is limited to the stated cost on the invoice, not to exceed \$250 per unit repaired.

First Success Stories Now Available

The *Easy Upgrades* Web site has been updated recently to include the first two recently-created success stories.

The first story focuses on the new tennis court lighting at the Twin Falls YMCA, which pays for itself (after Idaho Power's incentive) in less than one year.

The second story is also about lighting. It tells of the shop lighting retrofit at Performance Chevrolet in Mountain Home. They liked the new shop lighting so well that they are improving the lighting in their showroom also.

More success stories are planned; not all are about lighting projects. You're invited to view the additional success stories as they're posted. To see what's new, go to the *Easy Upgrades* Web page and click on "Success Stories."

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

The International Building Operators Association (IBOA) is holding their annual convention on June 12–13. The convention will be held at the Owyhee Plaza in Boise.

The first day presentation topics range from performance contracting to utility incentives. The second day includes more presentations and vendor exhibits. IBOA members can attend for \$80. Registration for non-members is \$150.

You can view a complete agenda, download a registration form, and learn more about this event at the IBOA Web site at www.nwboa.org/upcoming_events.html.

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.