

# Easy Upgrades UPDATE

## November 2008

### High Levels of Program Activity

The *Easy Upgrades* program continues to generate high levels of interest and activity among our customers and contractors.

As of early November, we have received over 650 preliminary applications this year. Over three-quarters of these projects feature lighting efficiency improvements. In that same time, we have approved more than 500 incentive payments.

The higher promotional lighting incentives currently offered in Idaho have contributed to the increased activity. That promotion ends December 15. To qualify, a lighting project needs to be complete and the final documentation submitted to Idaho Power before the deadline.

### Program Improvements for 2009

For energy projects that can't be completed by December 15, remember the *Easy Upgrades* program will continue to be available next year and beyond.

Based on input some of you provided, improvements to the program have been proposed. These improvements will be evident in a slightly modified application, worksheets with space for the application number, and a lighting worksheet that includes space for operating hours. These changes are still subject to modification.

Many other changes will be seen on the lighting worksheet. We expect to offer higher incentive levels for most lighting projects using T8 or T5 fluorescents. In most cases, the incentives proposed for 2009 will be better than the current lighting incentive promotion in Idaho.

Some new lighting measures are being added. We plan to offer incentives for low wattage T8 lamps, efficient high wattage Metal Halide (MH) fixtures, higher wattage compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), and CFL fixtures. The separate lines for Ceramic and Pulse Start MHs have been combined.

Beyond lighting, additions to the HVAC worksheet include efficient Packaged Terminal Air Conditioning (PTAC) units, an incentive for existing control system optimization, and A/C occupancy sensor controls for hotels and motels.

The Motors worksheet is unchanged. The Building Shell worksheet will include incentives for insulated roll-up doors and fast-closing doors. Efficient commercial refrigerators,

freezers and ice makers will be added to the Plug Loads worksheet.

LED case lighting will be included on the Grocery Refrigeration worksheet. There are also a few deletions or instances where the incentive levels will be reduced. Electronic T12 ballasts for case lighting will be removed and the incentives for reach-in and walk-in door gasket replacements will be reduced.

The program offerings for 2009 are scheduled to take effect on January 5 in Idaho and soon thereafter in Oregon. A series of workshops to introduce these program changes are planned for January as well.

You can learn more about what has been proposed for *Easy Upgrades* before then. Simply send an e-mail with "2009 Program" in the subject line to [chalsey@idahopower.com](mailto:chalsey@idahopower.com) and we will send you an e-mail with additional details of the 2009 proposals.

### Federal Tax Deduction Extended

The recently passed Emergency Economic Stabilization Act also included an extension of the Commercial Building Tax Deduction.

The deduction (up to \$1.80 per square foot) is now available through 2013. The extension will allow building owners more time to complete energy-saving projects and earn this federal tax deduction.

More information on the Commercial Building Tax Deduction can be found at [www.efficientbuildings.org](http://www.efficientbuildings.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 help.

For a copy of our "Save Energy Dollars" booklet, an incentive 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.