

Easy Upgrades UPDATE

January 2009

Out with the Old, In with the New

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season went well and you're ready for a successful—and efficient—new year.

Just like the calendar, *Easy Upgrades* is changing.

On January 5, changes for 2009 took effect in both Idaho and Oregon.

One new program element is an application deadline. Now, only final applications received within six months of a project's completion will be eligible for incentives.

There are significant changes for lighting projects. The list of eligible lighting measures has changed. Some measures still offered may have changes in the incentives offered. Many of the new lighting incentives are higher than what was offered in the past, but not all.

Other new measures have also been added. The HVAC worksheet now has a specific incentive for the through-the-wall air conditioning units typical in many motels. Also, occupancy-based HVAC controls for motel rooms are now eligible. A new incentive for reprogramming automated control systems is included as well.

Incentives for insulated doors have been added to the Building Shell worksheet, and the Plug Loads worksheet now includes restaurant-style freezers, refrigerators, and ice makers.

All of the new and changed incentives are reflected in the worksheets posted on the *Easy Upgrades* Web site. The application form also has been revised. The application and worksheets are in savable PDF forms, which means they can be filled in, saved, and e-mailed to us. There is also a new electronic application option available for paperless processing.

The new forms, electronic application, and other program details are online at www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades.

A Look Back at 2008's Accomplishments

Easy Upgrades generated high levels of activity in 2008. We significantly exceeded the goals set for the program. For the year, we received more than 850 pre-applications and approved incentive payments for 680 completed projects.

The total energy-savings from 2008's projects exceeded 26 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, while the total incentives paid for those projects was more than \$2.7 million.

The size of projects ranged from very small to quite large. The incentives-earned ranged similarly, with the average project earning an incentive of almost \$2,700.

A wide range of facilities took advantage of the program; the most common facility types were retail, office, school, and industrial, in that order.

Program participation largely reflected the distribution of our commercial and industrial customers. The Boise area had the largest share of projects and incentive payments.

Over the course of 2008, *Easy Upgrades* saved enough energy to power approximately 1,900 typical homes for an entire year, and we hope to generate similar savings in 2009.

Scheduled Workshops for Trade Allies

What do the recent changes to the *Easy Upgrades* program mean for someone trying to sell energy-efficient lighting or other energy-saving projects? Some contractors may feel they have just figured out what the 2008 version of the program covered and how it worked.

Contractors and suppliers are invited to learn more about the program changes at a series of informative workshops in five locations the week of January 26. If you are a contractor and did not receive an invitation, send an e-mail with "Trade Ally Workshop" in the subject line to chalsey@idahopower.com, and we will e-mail additional workshop details to you.

Businesses and professional associations that want to hear about the changes to *Easy Upgrades* are invited to contact Curt Nichols to schedule a presentation for their group.

For More Program Information

Do you know of business or industrial facilities that could benefit from updating their lighting, cooling, or other electrical 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*, contact Curt Nichols at 208-388-6484 or easyupgrades@idahopower.com.