

Easy Upgrades UPDATE

May 2009

2009 Payouts Pass \$1 Million

Four months into 2009, *Easy Upgrades* activity continues at a high pace. Through April, more than 430 pre-applications (pre-apps) have been turned in. In that same time period, 375 final apps have been processed for payment.

Thus far, this year's incentive payments total more than \$1 million, and the annual savings from those projects now exceeds 11 million kilowatt-hours per year. That's enough electricity to fully power more than 540 typical Idaho homes.

If your clients—or your projects—aren't included in the applications we've received, please send them in. The application process, forms, and other details are all online at www.idahopower.com/easyupgrades.

Incentives and Rental Equipment

In some cases, our customers have an option to rent the kinds of equipment that could qualify for *Easy Upgrades* incentives. We've been asked if renting laundry machines, dish machines, copiers, or other similar equipment can also earn incentives.

The *Easy Upgrades* Terms and Conditions state, "Incentive payments are for projects where the equipment installed is intended for long-term use." Because long-term use cannot be guaranteed with rentals, Idaho Power will not provide incentive payments for projects with rental equipment.

This decision is consistent with how other utility incentive programs treat rentals. Remember, the equipment is eligible when purchased; only equipment rentals are ineligible.

Business Energy Use Myths

Questions about the eligibility of various energy-control technologies come up from time-to-time. Two of those technologies are surge protectors and soft-start equipment.

According to E Source, an independent energy research organization, neither surge protectors nor soft-starters for electric motors really save energy.

In a 2007 publication titled "Energy Myths: Business Energy Use," E Source said this about surge protectors. "Surge protectors are an effective way of protecting your electrical

equipment against voltage spikes, but don't buy one to cut your energy costs, because it won't."

In that same publication, E Source also addressed soft-start equipment. "...Soft-starters can extend motor lifetimes—particularly those of motors that are stopped and started frequently." However, they add, "...a soft-starter affects a motor's power draw over the course of just a few seconds." For motors that are used hundreds of hours per year, energy savings for a few seconds during start-up don't add up to significant savings.

Both surge protectors and soft-start equipment have other benefits; however, they have minimal, if any, real impact on energy efficiency. Because of that, they aren't eligible for *Easy Upgrades* or other Idaho Power incentive programs.

Upcoming Educational Opportunity

On June 2, BOMA Boise will hold a class titled *The Green Lease: Moving from Conception to Execution*. The class is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the CW Moore Plaza in Boise.

The class targets property managers with information from BOMA International's newly revised "Guide to Writing a Commercial Lease." The document now includes green lease language. The class offers an opportunity to learn more about how to implement these leases.

The class cost, including lunch, is \$25 for BOMA members and \$35 for others. More details, including registration forms, are available online at 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.