

Range of free programs can help businesses find savings through efficiency

By **STEVE TARTER (starter@pjstar.com)**

Journal Star

Posted Oct 31, 2011 @ 11:35 PM

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



PEORIA — An Illinois business looking to be more energy efficient doesn't have to be left out in the cold. The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center, managed by the University of Illinois, staged a program last week at the Peoria NEXT Innovation Center, 820 W. Main St., that outlined ways the agency can help companies.

SEDAC provides a wide range of programs, from quick advice to energy audits and economic analysis, said Andy Robinson, an energy engineer with the agency. "It's a free service. We provide free energy assessments," he said.

Robinson and other SEDAC staff members explained how the agency works while outlining past case studies. He stressed the importance of each business having an "energy champion" to make sure that reports and assessments "don't just sit on a shelf."

Being more energy efficient is likely to be more important than ever with Illinois adopting more stringent energy codes for buildings in 2012, noted Emmy Riley, a SEDAC engineer.

"Energy is a thing you manage," said SEDAC manager Donald Fournier. "While there's no silver bullet when it comes to improving energy efficiency, you also face the cost of not doing anything," he said.

A wide variety of energy-saving measures were cited in the program, including using more efficient bulbs for lighting, sealing drafts and the tuning and replacement of equipment. "In a typical building, you can save 30 percent of the energy used annually with some basic changes," said Fournier.

Sometimes, minor adjustments can lead to big energy savings, he said. A library that SEDAC worked with in the state was able to save \$100,000 in annual energy expenditures simply by reducing the time that fans were programmed to come on before the facility opened.

"Sometimes we find that heating and cooling systems are fighting each other, resulting in energy waste and higher costs for building owners," said SEDAC engineer Greg Swiss.

Energy improvement efforts must be maintained and not just applied and forgotten, said Fournier. "It needs to be a continuous process," he said. More information is available at sedac.org.

Contact Steve Tarter at 686-3260 or starter@pjstar.com.

Copyright 2011 pjstar.com. Some rights reserved

Advertisement



If you owe less than \$729K, the government may pay you up to \$5000 to make your mortgage payment.



Would you support Newt Gingrich for President? Vote in Newsmax's urgent national poll.



Do not buy until you read this 4 week study on the results of using the E-Cigarette to quit smoking.



Critics call it "The Video that Will Get Obama Fired." See interview with prophetic economist.



How this strange 62-cent fruit is making Americans skinny.



Illinois: Local mom reveals \$3 trick to erase wrinkles. Shocking before & after results exposed

Nurse Programs @The Nurse

Do you have what it takes to become a Nurse.
NursePrograms.net

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 3.01% APR Govt
www.MortgageRatesExperts.com

bad credit

A New Credit Card Is How You Rebuild Your Bad Credit!
Mycredittree.com

Ads by Yahoo

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

Register

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the terms of use

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [About our Ads](#)

[pjstar.com](#) | Peoria, IL 61643

Copyright © 2006-2011 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

SEO by [eLocalListing](#) | [Advertiser profiles](#) | [RadarFrog Merchant Directory](#)