FIND ENERGY INCENTIVES

The 2012-2013 guidelines and application for DCEO’s Illinois Energy Now Public Sector Energy Efficiency Standard and Custom Incentive Programs have been issued at: www.ilenergynow.org

ComEd Smart Ideas®, Ameren Illinois ActOnEnergy®, Nicor, Peoples and North Shore have also released their application forms and guidelines for 2012-2013.

Visit their websites for the most up-to-date information:
- COMED SMART IDEAS®
- AMEREN IL ActOnEnergy®
- NICOR
- PEOPLES GAS
- NORTH SHORE GAS

ENERGY TRAINING

Energy Efficiency Incentives for Central and Southern Illinois Commerce and Industry

AUGUST 21: Springfield Register

The U.S. Department of Energy Advanced Manufacturing Office, along with Ameren Illinois, Nicor, DCEO and UIC-ERC invite you to find out how Illinois utilities’ incentives can save you money on your industrial energy efficiency efforts.

BENCHMARK WITH EPA’S ENERGY STAR® PORTFOLIO MANAGER

What is Portfolio Manager? Portfolio Manager is an interactive energy management tool that allows you to track and assess energy and water consumption across your entire portfolio of buildings in a secure online environment. Whether you own, manage, or hold properties for investment, Portfolio Manager can help you set investment priorities, identify underperforming buildings, verify efficiency improvements, and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance. It is available at no cost to all users.

Why Benchmark with Portfolio Manager? Leading organizations take a strategic approach to energy management. By understanding current and past energy usage through benchmarking, organizations can identify opportunities to improve energy performance and gain financial benefits. By looking at performance at the whole building level, building managers can identify opportunities for savings through operational improvements and system optimization as well as capital upgrades. Portfolio Manager can be used by all organizations to:

- Establish a baseline energy performance for each property.
- Set goals for energy performance.
- Prioritize investments.
- Conduct ongoing measurement and verification of improvements - both financial and environmental.
- Earn recognition from EPA and others for environmental and operational excellence.

Certain building types can receive an EPA energy performance score which compares facility performance to similar buildings across the country. To learn more, visit www.energystar.gov/benchmark
OPTIMIZE BUILDING ENERGY SYSTEMS WITH RETRO-COMMISSIONING

The quickest return on energy performance investment may be to retro-commission your existing building. Typically, energy costs can be reduced by 16%, with a payback of 1.1 years. Retro-commissioning is a gold mine of energy and cost savings that Illinois utility companies are recognizing and promoting. Utilities are sponsoring building analysis and guidance for low performing buildings in order to meet Illinois state mandates for energy use reductions. Services for private buildings are arranged through your local utility (ComEd, Ameren Illinois, Nicor, Peoples, or North Shore Gas). Services for public buildings are funded through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Public Sector Retro-commissioning and are arranged through SEDAC.

Retro-commissioning (RCx) is the systematic discovery, documentation, review, and improvement of energy operations through low-cost savings opportunities (repair, adjustment, control) that match building performance to current functional requirements. RCx makes the most of your current systems, getting them repaired, tuned and set to meet your needs while reducing energy costs. RCx employs control schemes to provide the space conditioning and lighting that you presently need, when and where you currently need it, and to turn equipment off or down when possible. In addition to improved energy and cost efficiency, RCx often improves thermal comfort, reduces maintenance costs, and increases equipment service life. Typically, RCx measures are fairly low cost measures with very quick paybacks because they are not capital projects.

Current offerings for this service vary by program (ComEd, Ameren Illinois, or DCEO) but, in general, are for larger buildings (100,000—150,000+ square feet) with high electric demand (500+kW in ComEd territory) and whose stakeholders are ready to take action. Buildings with direct digital controls and a functioning building automation system are preferred. Facility screening should reveal that systems are operating sub-optimally and that you intend to continue to use existing equipment. The retro-commissioning provider and building stakeholders establish a partnership to investigate and improve building operations. Approved clients must support the building investigation process, invest in implementing identified measures, and arrange for the work to be completed. Clients in the ComEd program are required to send a building staff member to Building Operators Certification Training.

These retro-commissioning services provide a unique opportunity to receive expert advice to help you begin accruing savings.

Below are links to the DCEO and the utility retro-commissioning pages:

- DCEO Public Sector RCx
- ComEd RCx
- Ameren Illinois RCx
- Nicor RCx
- Peoples RCx
- North Shore RCx

There are still openings in the DCEO Public Sector RCx Program Year 5 program. Prospective public sector clients should contact rcx@sedac.org or phone Ashley at 312-267-2864 as soon as possible. Watch for more details on retro-commissioning in next month’s newsletter.

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2 http://smartenergy.illinois.edu/il-energy-incentive-background.html

3 http://www.boccentral.org