SEDAC
The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) provides advice and analyses, enabling small businesses in the State of Illinois to increase their profitability through the efficient use of energy resources. SEDAC is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s Small Business Smart Energy Program (SBSE) and provides valuable services at no cost to small businesses. SEDAC is managed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

SEDAC NEWS

Energy and Water Conservation

SEDAC’s mission is to help Illinois businesses save energy and operate more efficiently. Typically SEDAC’s recommendations focus on technologies or building modifications that save electricity or natural gas. Another opportunity is water conservation. While not always associated with energy conservation, there are many instances where conserving water also results in conserving energy.

Anytime water conservation saves hot water, energy savings will also accrue. For example, commercial laundry facilities and laundries in hotels often use large quantities of hot water. By adopting one of several alternatives to conventional laundry facilities (such as ozonated water, low water volume front loaders, or exhaust heat recovery), substantial amounts of hot water and energy can be saved. Water and energy savings are not only restricted to laundry operations; a California Hotel & Lodging Association study concluded that typical hotels use 218 gallons of water per day per occupied room and that water-efficient fixtures can reduce water and sewer bills by up to 30%.

Many businesses are trying to promote themselves as being “Green” and some are going for LEED® certification. LEED certification requires environmentally responsible usage of both exterior and interior water. On the exterior, plant species, type of irrigation, use of captured rainwater, use of recycled water, and use of water treated and conveyed by a public agency specifically for non-potable uses, can all contribute to qualifying for LEED credits. On the interior, LEED credit points can be obtained by incorporating low flow water closets, low flush urinals, and low flow showerheads, faucets, and clothes washers. Energy and water savings can accrue particularly quickly in multi-family housing developments.

Other opportunities for savings include leak detection and repair, cooling tower management, elimination of once-through (or open) cooling equipment, water-efficient food service equipment, e.g. food steamers, and examining high water usage processes such as food processing, vehicle wash facilities, and others.

Water savings strategies are particularly attractive for new projects. If strategies are considered from the onset, they are easy to implement, cost little or nothing to implement (often, you only have to pay attention to what you are specifying), and can even reduce construction costs when less piping is required.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a program called WaterSense to label products with water saving properties. You can visit at http://www.epa.gov/watersense/ or contact SEDAC for assistance.
EDUCATION

October 26, 2007: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm: Beyond Code: Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings 3 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, $40, Multi-University Center, 1010 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook.

October 26, 2007: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm: Energy Efficiency Benefits of the EPACT 2005 2 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, $30, Multi-University Center, 1010 Jorie Blvd, Oak Brook.

October 26, 2007: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm: Basics of Architectural Lighting, 7 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, $225, Multi-University Center, Oak Brook.

October 3 and December 8: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm: Building Life-Cycle Cost Estimation, 7 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, $225, Multi-University Center, 1010 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook

Call 888/633-3603 to register.

Online Classes are available through SEDAC and the Office of Continuing Education at UIUC:

The Architecture of Sustainability: 10 modules - individual or packaged.
Module 1: 3 AIA LUs/CEUs-$75. Modules 2-10: 1 AIA LU/CEU, $50.
Package of 10 modules: 12 AIA LUs/CEUs, $450.


Registration is continuous at www.continuinged.uiuc.edu click on Green Design

OTHER EDUCATION

Building Operator Certification Training Schedule
Oct. 2, 2007 - April 1, 2008: Chicago
Oct. 9, 2007 - April 8, 2008: Edwardsville

SEDAC NEWS

ILLINOIS RECYCLING GRANTS PROGRAM

The Illinois Recycling Grants Program has formally opened its FY08 grant cycle. Two types of recycling projects will be considered, traditional recycling projects involving paper, plastic, metal and glass, as well as projects that focus on collection and processing end-of-life computers and electronics. Grant applications are due no later than 5 pm, December 19, 2007. Workshops to discuss the Request-for-Application documents will be held in the below listed locations. Details about these workshops and PDF copies of the RFA’s can be found at http://www.illinoisrecycles.com/

October 10 - DeKalb
October 12 - Springfield
October 17 - Murphysboro

E-MAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO info@sedac.org AND WE’LL INCLUDE THEM IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER.

SEDAC AND DCEO HELP CLIENTS WIN USDA GRANTS

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Small Business Smart Energy Program proved its worth in gold for a number of Illinois farms who took advantage of SEDAC’s no fee audits. This past spring, SEDAC helped local farmers with the support they needed to obtain the energy information they needed to complete their proposals to the 2007 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant and Loan Guarantee program, a USDA Rural Development initiative supported through Section 9006 of the Federal Farm Bill. Applicants sought financial assistance from the grant program for major equipment expenses, such as upgraded grain dryers or a hot water heating system, to optimize their processes and reduce their energy costs. Half of the proposing farms or rural businesses who SEDAC helped with their USDA application won an award.

The DCEO Small Business Smart Energy program Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) provides technical assistance for small businesses and offers guidance to rural businesses on the USDA Farm Bill opportunities.

To participate in the SB$E program, please contact us at: (800) 214-7954 or info@SEDAC.org
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