SEDAC

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) provides advice and analyses enabling private and public facilities in the State of Illinois to increase their economic viability through the efficient use of energy resources. SEDAC is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in partnership with ComEd and Ameren Illinois Utilities and provides valuable services at no cost to for-profit businesses and public facilities. SEDAC is managed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and supported by the 360 Energy Group.

(Hyperlinks are shown in green)

EDUCATION

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.

Energy Basics for Small Business.

Online Registration is continuous at www.continuinged.uiuc.edu

February 20: SEDAC Lunch and Learn on Boiler Efficiency by Brian Duffield.
Register at www.sedac.org.
Location: ISTC, 1 Hazelwood Drive Champaign. Directions.

NEWS

Options for Financing Public Sector Energy Efficiency Projects

Finding ways to cut energy costs is quickly becoming popular, if not critical, for many government entities in the State of Illinois. However, with options for funding in short supply many needed changes are not taking place. One method of financing that these groups might consider is Energy Performance Contracting (EPC).

This financing method allows for designing, installing and financing energy improvement projects where the energy and maintenance savings achieved by the project are guaranteed to help pay for the project over a period of time. Some energy efficiency strategies literally pay for themselves with energy savings.

Some entities also choose to help finance longer pay-off strategies and maintenance items with the more lucrative strategies to create an overall improvement package for their buildings.

Because of Enabling Legislation in the State of Illinois, public K-12 schools and community colleges, state universities, municipalities, and state agencies can all enter into EPC contracts without the added step of voter approval. Businesses can also enter into these contracts and take advantage of a financing mechanism set up to recognize the effect of energy efficiency on the bottom line as well as a guarantee of future energy savings from the contractor.

More information may be obtained by contacting the DCEO’s Energy Performance Contracting Program (EPC). The EPC program has an expert in EPC available to provide technical assistance to public sector and not-for-profit entities to help them understand and navigate the EPC process, and has developed sample documents to assist you through the process. The EPC program has helped implement over $73 million in projects with annual utility savings of about $10 million.

Contact for the EPC program is Wayne Hartel at 217-785-3420 wayne.hartel@illinois.gov.
To participate in the Smart Energy Design Assistance program, contact us at: (800) 214-7954 or info@SEDAC.org
Smart Energy Design Assistance Center, 1 East St. Mary’s Road, Champaign, IL  61820
www.sedac.org

NEWS

The Obama New Energy for America Plan

President Obama has presented a comprehensive plan to invest in alternative and renewable energy, end reliance on foreign oil, address the global climate crisis, and create millions of new jobs.

The New Energy for America plan aims to:

- Help create five million new jobs by strategically investing $150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future.
- Within 10 years save more oil than the U.S. currently imports from the Middle East and Venezuela combined.
- Put 1 million Plug-In Hybrid cars (to be built in America) -- cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon -- on the road by 2015.
- Ensure 10 percent of U.S. electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.
- Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

USGBC Advances Green Building as Essential to Economic Recovery

Excerpted from USGBC Web site

In ongoing talks with the transition’s energy and environment team since November, the U.S. Green Building Council has advanced vital green building policy priorities that will simultaneously create millions of green-collar jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance proven opportunities to deliver greener, more energy-efficient buildings.

President Obama issued a recent commitment to make the U.S. a global leader in green, energy-efficient government facilities, calling for an overhaul of 75% of federal buildings in an effort to save $2 billion through energy efficiency alone. On schools, the President has said repeatedly that green school funding will be another priority in the economic recovery package.

USGBC is spearheading the following initiatives in talks with the transition and Congress as part of an essential, solutions-oriented response to the mounting economic challenges:

- provide robust support for green schools
- create a revolving loan fund to spur investment in green building
- provide robust support for green job training
- fund green building projects in government facilities
- invest boldly in green affordable housing

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