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.

(Links are shown in green)

Illinois Recovery

On February 21, Governor Quinn launched Recovery.Illinois.gov, a website created to help ensure that Illinois takes full advantage of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. This is the portal to Illinois’ implementation of the federal stimulus plan and will:

- Keep track of projects, spending and job creation;
- List state run programs receiving supplemental funding -- unemployment benefits, food stamps, vocational rehabilitation and other services;
- Connect to agency sites where proposed project lists will be posted as they become available; and
- Allow Illinoisans to suggest a project that is eligible for federal stimulus funds.

News


Congress passed an economic stimulus package that does much to promote energy efficiency. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 was signed February 17, 2009 and includes several provisions modifying and expanding the scope of the energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives. The Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP) Web site notes these changes:

Business Incentives

- **Commercial Buildings** - Businesses can get deductions for new or renovated buildings that save 50% or more of projected annual energy costs for heating, cooling, and lighting compared to model national standards, and partial deductions for efficiency improvements to individual lighting, HVAC and water heating, or envelope systems.
- **Commercial Vehicles** - Credits are available to businesses similar to those for consumers, including heavy-duty hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles.
- **Combined Heat and Power** - New investment tax credit for combined heat and power systems (CHP)
- **On-Site Renewables** - Businesses are eligible for tax credits for qualified solar water heating and photovoltaic systems, and for certain solar lighting systems.
- **Fuel Cells & Microturbines** - In addition to a fuel cell credit like that for consumers, credits are available to businesses who install qualifying microturbines. These systems, which typically run on natural gas, are small power-producing systems sized to run small to medium size commercial buildings.

Consumer Incentives

- Energy efficiency incentives for upgrades to existing homes have been extended, and are now available for 2009 and 2010.
- The financial cap for these incentives, which cover home envelope improvements as well as heating, cooling and water heating equipment, was increased to $1,500 (from $500).
- Lower caps, such as the $200 cap on new windows, have been abolished. The existing home incentives are now calculated at 30% of the cost of the installation, up to the $1,500 cap. The legislation is unclear on whether this includes both equipment and labor, however previous IRS rulings suggest that labor is NOT included.
- Standards for equipment eligibility have changed.
- On-site renewables (solar photovoltaic and hot water systems, small wind systems, and geothermal heat pumps) are now eligible for a tax incentive worth 30% of the total cost, without a cap.
- New incentives for plug-in electric vehicles, and plug-in conversion kits.
EDUCATION

_Had a SEDAC presentation?_ Look for it in the archives at sedac.org

**CHICAGO CENTER FOR GREEN TECHNOLOGY**
April 21, 2009: Water Conservation Basics

**USGBC CHICAGO CHAPTER**
March 24, 2009: LEED for New Construction Workshop
April 9, 2009: LEED for Schools Workshop
April 22, 2009: Understanding LEED Project Costs & Returns
April 28, 2009: Green Building Basics & LEED Workshop

**ENERGY CENTER OF WISCONSIN**
*Online course available anytime:*
Beyond Code: Designing Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings by Donald Fournier of SEDAC

**BUILDING INDUSTRY TRAINING and EDUCATION (BITE)**
Training Dates and Locations

**EEPS LINKS**

_DCEO Public Sector Electric Efficiency program_
[www.illinoisenergy.org](http://www.illinoisenergy.org)
Standard Incentive Program contact: Andrea Reiff, 217/785-0164
andrea.reiff@illinois.gov
Custom Incentive Program contact: Tom Coe, 217/785-2433
tom.coe@illinois.gov

_ComEd_

_AMEREN ILLINOIS_

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**EEPS UPDATE**

*ComED announces changes in Smart Ideas for Your Business Program for Year Two, beginning June 1, 2009.*
http://www.comed.com/businesssavings/programsincentives/changes.htm

*The Act On Energy™ Business Program* will no longer accept Custom Program applications for Program Year One, effective close of business, March 31.

*The Act On Energy™ Business Program* is conducting a pilot program in the PEORIA, IL area. The program offers businesses incentives to tune up existing heating and cooling (HVAC) equipment, or install new high-performance HVAC equipment.

**Peoples Gas** through the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program offers rebates and low-interest loans to encourage customers to make energy efficient improvements to their apartment buildings and businesses.

**What do we mean by Energy Efficiency?**

SEDAC promotes energy efficiency. Here’s how the US DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program describes it: energy efficiency means doing the same work, or more, and enjoying the same comfort level with less energy. Consequently, energy efficiency can be considered part of the Illinois energy resource base — a demand-side resource. Unlike energy conservation, which is rooted in behavior, energy efficiency is _technology-based_. This means the savings can be predicted by engineering calculations, and they are sustained over time. Examples of energy efficiency measures and equipment include compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), and high efficiency air conditioners, refrigerators, boilers, and chillers.

Saving energy through efficiency is less expensive than building new power plants. Utilities can plan for and invest in technology-based energy efficiency measures and, as a consequence, defer or avoid the need to build a new power plant. In addition, the savings from energy efficiency are significantly greater than one might expect, because no energy is needed to generate, transmit, distribute, and store energy before it reaches the end user. Furthermore, reduced fuel use, along with the resulting decreased pollution, can provide short and long-term economic and health benefits.

SEDAC engineers and architects have completed such engineering calculations on over 320 commercial and public buildings in Illinois representing almost 22 million square feet. They have found an average of 31% energy savings and a 31% energy cost savings for these buildings.

*USDA Announces RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)*
Energy Technical Assistance Funding

**Deadline for submitting grant requests to USDA**
**JUNE 9, 2009**
[www.farmenergy.org](http://www.farmenergy.org)

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](http://www.sedac.org)