



**SMART
ENERGY
DESIGN**
Assistance Center

Smart Energy Design Assistance Center

Newsletter Vol. 3, No. 6, June 2007

www.sedac.org

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 (SB\$E)* and provides valuable services at no cost to small businesses. SEDAC is managed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in partnership with the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium.

EDUCATION

June 22: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm:

Beyond Code: Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings, 3 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, \$40, Multi-University Center, Oak Brook.

June 22: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm:

Efficiency Benefits of the EPACT 2005, 2 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, \$30, Multi-University Center, Oak Brook.

August 9: 9:30 am to 5:00

pm: **Building Life-Cycle Cost Estimation**, 7 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, \$225, Multi-University Center, Oak Brook.

August 10: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm:

Basics of Architectural Lighting, 7 HSW LUs in AIA/CES, \$225, Multi-University Center, 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.

over...

SEDAC NEWS

ILLINOIS RENEWABLE ENERGY TO GET BOOST FROM NET METERING LEGISLATION

Net metering is a type of billing and metering system that is beneficial for renewable energy installations. If at any time your system is generating more power than your facility needs, your meter basically spins backwards. This is the equivalent of selling your energy at the retail rate (typically 6 to 8 cents/kWh). Without net metering, anytime you are generating more than you need, you only receive the avoided energy rate (about 3 to 4 cents/kWh), rather than the retail rate.

The only net metering option currently available in the State of Illinois is through a ComEd pilot program. However, net metering legislation recently passed in the **Illinois General Assembly (SB0680)**. This legislation will require utilities to provide net metering for certain renewable energy installations below 2,000 kW capacity by April 1, 2008. Any additional electricity generated during a billing period will be applied as credit to the next period. This continues until the end of the year. At this time, the customer can either receive a check for excess annual generation at the avoided cost rate or apply the credits to the next year.

Eligible technologies consist of solar photovoltaic, wind, dedicated crops grown for electricity generation, anaerobic digestion of livestock or food processing waste, or hydroelectric energy. Utilities must offer net metering until the load of its net metering customers equals 1% of the total peak demand supplied by the provider that year, though they can offer net metering beyond this level. Dual-channel metering is required for non-residential customers with system capacities exceeding 40 kW.

Sizing a system that will generate electricity as close as possible to the current annual consumption will take full advantage of the better rates provided by net metering. This legislation will increase the viability of many renewable energy installations, especially when combined with applicable state and federal incentives. Read more about net metering at [American Wind Energy Association FAQ](#) section.

GREEN CHICAGO

Since Mayor Daley set out just a few short years ago to make Chicago one of the nation's most environmentally friendly cities in the world, the "Conserve Chicago Together" campaign has been leading by example, bringing attention to the simple choices and actions Chicagoans can make and do to save both energy and the environment. Fortunately for this goal, there has been an ever-growing industry of **earth-conscious professionals** in the area who have pioneered the path, helping the Windy City see "green" in no time flat.

From **city hall's green roof** to the **Chicago Center for Green Technology**, examples of environmentally sound installations are everywhere. In fact, many

over...



Energy Basics for Small Business.
Module 1: The Language of Energy: 1 AIA LU/CEU-\$25.

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

EVENTS

Illinois Renewable Energy Fair
August 11 -12, Oregon Illinois

Corporate Climate Change
September 25 - 26, Chicago

IGSHPA Annual Conference
October 29-30, 2007
Oklahoma City

Green Building: The Nuts and Bolts for Contractors
ONE DAY EVENTS PRESENTED BY:
Wilbur Wright College and the U.S. Green Building Council - Chicago Chapter.

JUNE 22ND, 2007
OCTOBER 26TH, 2007
NOVEMBER 30TH, 2007
JANUARY 25TH, 2008

This Workshop is designed to educate the construction community about green building procedures and strategies, the LEED® rating system and the requirements that need to be met on the construction site and in the office to achieve a certified structure.



USDA LOANS & GRANTS - DEADLINE APPROACHING

July 2 for Guaranteed Loans and Grants
www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html
www.farmenergy.org/appsandtools/index.php

SEDAC NEWS

...cntd



of the aforementioned industry pros and enlightened residents alike are taking their commitment to the next level by incorporating the **Chicago Standard** in every kind of building imaginable, even though the above-par green ordinance is required only from municipal buildings.

One thing is now for certain: Chicagoans don't have to look far to find events and activities where anyone can do his or her part.

First, the **Chicago Conservation Corps** organizes regular service projects that are often fun for the whole family. Next, **Chicago's Green City Market**, a seasonal food market that connects farmers with consumers, helps sustain the local agriculture industry while increasing availability of fresh, organic goods. Another local highlight are the **Chicago Green Drinks** sessions, monthly gatherings averaging 70 to 100 individuals who meet to informally network, socialize and discuss topics related to environmental and sustainability issues. If you are interested in checking out green sites around town you can use the **Chicago Green Map** by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for guidance.



Chicago is a city that's ready and willing to do what it takes to green its act and keep it clean, setting a precedent for countless other cities that will hopefully follow in her footsteps. But for those who are already taking part in Chicago's eco-renaissance, the best is yet to come...

TRACKING SEDAC CLIENT SUCCESS

If you have taken advantage of SEDAC's design assistance services, you may have received a report detailing energy cost reduction measures (ECRMs) that SEDAC calculates to have favorable life cycle economics. You may be surprised when several months after receiving the report you are contacted by SEDAC and asked which ECRMs you have implemented. Well, rest assured, you are not being singled out for scrutiny. Because SEDAC is funded with taxpayer dollars, we are held to a high standard of accountability. Our success is measured based on your success; that is, your actual implementation of recommended ECRMs.

Each quarter we try to contact every previous SEDAC client and determine the ECRM implementation status. The information is used to generate a report for DCEO -- SEDAC's sponsor. This report details the total kWh, kW, therms, and dollars being saved by our clients. These metrics are compared with total SEDAC monetary expenditures to gauge the cost effectiveness of our efforts. Since implementation is an on-going process, and in some cases, may take years for some clients, you may be contacted numerous times. Try to be patient; in the long run, this information gathering is beneficial to you as a client and a taxpayer.

To participate in the **SB\$E program**, please 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