Showcasing Model Utility IEE Programs - Webinar 7 February, 2012

The Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) and the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Working group held a webinar which showcased model utility IEE programs. Three different utility groups that have had great success in implementing energy efficient programs presented on how they are funded, their incentives to customers, and how projects are carried out. Many of the efficiency programs which were discussed are for industry but some utilities have programs for residential customers. Each of the presentations are provided below the summary.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

The first presenter was Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) which provides services to the Pacific Northwest region. BPA is a non-profit agency which is self-funded but is part of the U.S. Department of Energy. The BPA does energy service and trade group reach outs, and currently serve 103 utility companies in the Pacific Northwest. What makes BPA different from many utility providers is that they follow projects that they conduct from the start of the project to the end of the project. The types of projects which are handled by the BPA include VFD installations, new fans, lighting (which is carried out by industrial engineers), pumps, compressed air, refrigeration, water/wastewater, control upgrades, process upgrades, and development of energy management plans. Lighting projects are conducted by unbiased third party lighting engineers. All of the projects that are conducted are carried out by people with expertise that have worked in industrial settings before. Costs can either be covered 100% by BPA or as a cost-share with the facility. With the current economy, BPA has had budget cuts but still maintain a good forward momentum by doing projects with industries that have internal funding.

BPA's Energy Smart Industrial Program

Excel Energy

Excel Energy which received the Award “Champion of Energy Efficiency in Industry” in 2011 was the second presenter. Excel Energy is ranked the number one wind energy provider and the number 5 solar energy provider in the country and manages programs in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Excel Energy is funded through demand side management on utility bills. In order for Excel Energy to carry out a project with an industrial customer the industrial customer must prove that they have 2 GWh in potential savings. Excel energy will then provide a study and bonus rebate. The rebate can be for either $525/kW or$ 0.10/kWh depending on which will give the customer the higher rebate check. Some natural gas programs do exist but are mostly for residential customers because gas price is down. Excel Energy provides energy management services by first understanding the company’s energy usage, improving their management effectiveness, setting energy goals, and finally achieving sustainable conservation. The key industries they provide to include metals, water treatment, mining, food and beverage, plastics, chemicals, petro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electrical and electronics, and oil refining.

Electric Energy Efficiency 2012 Industrial Program
Wisconsin Focus on Energy

The final presenter, Wisconsin Focus on Energy, is a capital lease program which has 5 million dollars set aside to assist residents and businesses without bias results. They are a single statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy program, rather than multiple separate programs. Wisconsin Focus on Energy provides services for Wisconsin residents and businesses only. They have serviced more than 91,000 businesses and 1.7 million residents since its inception in 2001. Their services include unbiased advice from experts, industry expertise, energy evaluations, education and training sessions, a network of vendors and market providers, as well as financial incentives. The financial incentives come from energy efficiency due to lighting, refrigeration, compressed air, food service, HVAC, motors and drives, new construction, and custom projects. Wisconsin Focus on Energy’s key industries include pulp and paper, food processing, metal casting, plastics, printing, water/wastewater.

Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy Industrial Sector Program