
MPUC PROGRAM MANAGER LEAVING MAINE

Linda Viens, who has served as the MPUC's Efficiency Maine Business Program Manager since the Program's inception in 2003, has announced her resignation effective June 2nd. Linda and her family are moving to Ohio.

Under Linda's guidance, the Efficiency Maine Business Program has assisted 642 businesses across the state with 958 projects, resulting in a reduction of 35,649,298 kilowatt hours annually – a combined cost savings of \$4.6 million for the participating businesses. In recognition of her contribution, Governor Baldacci presented the second annual Philip C. Hastings award to Linda Viens on May 11th.

Over the course of her career in Maine, Linda has spoken with, met and worked with many Program Allies. Knowing that she could not say good-bye in person to every one of them, Linda asked that we include a personal note from her to you:

Dear Program Allies –

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to ALL the Efficiency Maine Program Allies for what you have done to make our Business Program such a success. We started with nothing more than an idea and here we are almost three years later with a successful and effective program. The accomplishments of the program are not mine. They have grown out of a partnership among Efficiency Maine, you the Program Allies, and your customers. It is truly a win-win situation for Maine.

I have been blessed to be associated with a great organization, program and team. I leave proud of our accomplishments and confident that your combined dedication and innovation will continue to benefit Maine businesses and our environment.

Sincerely,

Linda

The MPUC is actively interviewing for a new Program Manager. We will inform you when a decision is made. In the meantime, the rest of the Efficiency Maine team is in place, and it's business as usual.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 allowed for tax incentives on certain energy saving investments including energy efficiency in commercial buildings. Listed here are some of the deduction possibilities for buildings or systems placed in service from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007. See the referenced Web sites below for a more complete understanding of the qualification requirements.

- A tax deduction of up to \$1.80 per square foot is available to owners or tenants of new or existing commercial buildings that are constructed or reconstructed to save at least 50% of the heating, cooling, water heating, and interior lighting energy cost of a building that meets [ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2001](#).
- Partial deductions of up to \$.60 per square foot can be taken for comparable reductions from any one of three building systems—the building envelope, lighting, or heating and cooling system—that meet goals consistent with achieving the 50% savings for the entire building.
- For lighting systems, unless the IRS issues a different final rule, the law specifies that a deduction of \$0.30 per square foot can be taken if the lighting system employs dual switching (ability to switch roughly half the lights off and still have fairly uniform light distribution) and reduces installed lighting power density by at least 25% from values specified for various space types in specific cited tables in ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2001.

For more information, visit www.energytaxincentives.com or www.advancedbuildings.net. Customers interested in the tax benefits should also consult with their tax professional.

PROGRAM EVALUATION IN PROCESS

As part of the MPUC's on-going commitment to making sure the Efficiency Maine programs are as effective and efficient as possible, PA Government Services has been hired to conduct an evaluation of the Business Program. PA will be gathering information between now and the late fall, when their report to the MPUC is due. An important part of the evaluation will be input from Program Allies and customers who have used the Program. We wanted to let you know about this in case you, or one of your customers, are selected for an interview. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Lark Lee at lark.lee@paconsulting.com.

RATE UPDATES ON SAVING ANALYSIS WORKSHEETS

Did you know that we have worksheets on our Web site that you can use to help sell your products? The Savings Analysis Worksheets (SAWs) are designed to help customers conduct a rough calculation of their savings from certain technologies. We currently have the following SAWs: Life-Cycle Costing, Exit Lights, Fluorescent Lamps and Ballasts, Programmable Thermostats, Rooftop HVAC Units, and Tankless Electric Water Heating. By June 15th, the updated SAWs will be live on our Web site with the suggested electricity rate increase from 12 to 15 cents per kWh to reflect what the average small and medium businesses are paying for their electricity.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing Education Units and other education credits are available for the following [training sessions](#). For more information on these programs and to register, contact [Joy Adamson](#) at 207-287-8350.

June 28, 2006 – [Fundamentals of Compressed Air](#), Freeport

Starting September 13, 2006 – [Building Operator Certification – Level 200](#), Orono

Starting November 2, 2006 – [Building Operator Certification – Level 100](#), Sanford

UPCOMING TRADE SHOWS

Efficiency Maine will have a booth at the following [trade shows](#). Please stop by.

June 15, 2006 – [Androscoggin Business to Business Trade Show](#), The Colisee, Lewiston

June 21, 2006 – [Gilman Electric Trade Show](#), Newport Armory

June 27, 2006 – [EPMA - Educational Plant Maintenance Association 39th Annual Custodial/Maintenance Conference](#), University of Maine, Farmington

August 10, 2006 – [Gilman Electric Trade Show](#), Medway

EASY LINKS

Each E-News will provide easy links for your review.

- [Program Ally Logo Use Guidelines](#)
- [Savings Analysis Worksheets and Technical Information Sheets](#)
- [Cash Incentive Applications](#)
- [Glossary of Terms](#)

PROGRAM ALLY E-NEWS

E-NEWS FOR PROGRAM ALLIES is published on a monthly basis to provide Efficiency Maine's Business Program Allies with program updates and other information. If you would like others in your company or organization to be added to our distribution list, forward us their [e-mail addresses](#). The Program Ally E-News is also found on our Web site on the [Energy Wise Tools & Program Materials](#) page.

If you would like to [provide feedback, ask questions](#) about the Program or this E-Newsletter, or [be removed from this list](#), send us an e-mail or call 866-376-2463, ext. 2.