

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.



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First Maine schools class graduates from Building Operator Certification program

With support from PUC, 20 trained in energy-efficient building operations

AUGUSTA, May 27, 2003 – The first class of Maine public school facility managers and building operators has graduated from the Building Operator Certification (BOC) program, a competency based training curricula designed to improve energy efficiency in commercial and municipal buildings.

In all, 20 students, representing 16 Maine public schools or districts, graduated from the program and have received their Building Operator Certification (BOC), signifying their competence in resource-efficient building operations and maintenance. The program is offered through Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc. (NEEP), a non-profit association based in Lexington, Mass. that promotes energy efficiency through a variety of policies and programs, including training.

In order to be certified, building operators and facility managers must demonstrate competence in facility electrical distribution; energy conservation; HVAC systems and controls; lighting; building energy codes; and indoor air quality. In addition to the classroom study, students need to complete assignments within their own facilities that help evaluate their energy systems and identify areas for energy savings. A 2002 evaluation of BOC graduates in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island found that, on average, the facilities served by those certified students saved:

- 0.5 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity per square foot per year
- 1.95 MMBtu (million British Thermal Units) of fossil fuels (gas/oil) per 1,000 square feet per year
- 0.162 gallons of water per square foot per year

At current retail energy prices, those savings translate to an estimated average savings

– more –

of \$20,000 per facility per year.

The class in Maine was offered thanks to the support of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, which sponsored all 20 students.

“We feel very strongly that an investment in the training of building operators that results in the more efficient use of energy is an investment in Maine’s future,” noted Thomas L. Welch, Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. “Through this training, the building operators and managers from these schools will be able to get the most for their energy dollars out of their facilities.”

“The Maine PUC has shown a strong commitment to the people of Maine by underwriting this training,” added Alan Mulak, the program manager for the BOC. “Not only does this training help saving energy and money, but a number of studies have shown additional energy-related benefits in areas like building comfort, student and staff productivity and indoor air quality.”

The Maine program graduates and their schools or districts included:

David Benner	Boothbay Harbor, Community School District 3
David Premo	Brunswick High School
Kenneth Perry	Dresden Elementary School
Susan Morris	Jay School District
Nelson Baillargeon	School Administrative District 17, Oxford
David Marshall	School Administrative District 17, Oxford
Roland Raymond	School Administrative District 17, OHCHS, Norway
Mike Cox	School Administrative District 35, Eliot
Rex Gosselin	School Administrative District 35, Marshwood High School, South Berwick
Paul Perrault	School Administrative District 71, Kennebunk
Frank West	School Administrative District 71, Kennebunk
Kim Donovan	School Administrative District 71, Kennebunk
Richard Lewia	School Administrative District 71, Kennebunk
Richard Wohlenberg	School Administrative District 72, Fryeburg
Joseph Larrabee	School Administrative District 75, Topsham
Steve Thomes	Portland Arts and Technology High School
Thomas Hamilton	Portland Public Schools
Douglas Sherwood	Portland Public Schools
Michael Garrity	School Administrative Union 7, Saco/Dayton
Timothy Parker	South Portland School Department

Founded in 1996, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to steadily increase energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry throughout the Northeast region of the United States.

For more information about the BOC or NEEP, or to register for BOC courses, call 781-860-9177, or visit www.neep.org. - END -