

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Catherine Attardo
781-860-9177 ext. 24
cattardo@neep.org

Mass. businesses facing hikes in energy bills March 1...

...but energy efficiency measures can help mitigate the upcoming price hikes

LEXINGTON, Mass., February 7, 2005 – Beginning next month, businesses in Massachusetts will face increases in their electricity costs of between 5 to 20 percent, according to a leading business trade group. Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) also warns in a recent report that small business will face increases of up to 16 percent on March 1 when transitional “standard offer” electric service expires and rate caps are lifted.

Bay State businesses can find some relief, however, in the many energy efficiency solutions available to them, according to **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc. (NEEP)**, a regional nonprofit organization committed to promoting energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry.

“As electricity rate caps expire in just a few weeks, energy efficiency programs, policies and products will play a vital role in relieving the burden of soaring energy costs for businesses across the state,” said Susan Coakley, Executive Director of NEEP, in encouraging Massachusetts businesses to save on their electricity bills by taking advantage of several efficiency solutions, including:

- **Efficient Lighting:** Studies show that 40 percent of commercial and industrial efficiency savings can be achieved through efficient lighting. Case studies and technical guides to help businesses take advantage of these savings are available through the DesignLights™ Consortium. See <http://www.designlights.org/>
- **High Efficiency Commercial HVAC:** Improving the efficiency of commercial and industrial cooling systems can save money and energy while reducing environmental impacts. Learn more at <http://www.coolchoice.net/>.
- **Premium Efficiency Motors:** Because premium efficiency motors cost less to operate, replacing a typical 100 HP motor with a premium efficiency motor can save up to \$1,400 a year. Visit <http://www.motoruonline.com/> for more information.
- **Resource Efficient Operations and Maintenance:** Training building operators through programs such as the Building Operator Certification (BOC) can save facilities on average of 0.5 kilowatts of

electricity per square foot and \$20,000 per total facility per year. More information can be found at <http://www.neep.org/boc/index/html>.

In addition to the many energy efficiency programs available to help businesses, public policy also plays a key role, according to Coakley. Legislation being introduced in Massachusetts this year would establish minimum efficiency standards for a wide range of commercial products. If adopted, these standards can save businesses in the state 3,609,000 million Btus of natural gas, 476,650 megawatts of electricity and \$800 million by 2020.

In Massachusetts, energy efficiency programs are administered through the state's regulated utility companies and through the Cape Light Compact, a municipal aggregator. To learn how businesses can avail themselves of energy efficiency program opportunities in different regions of the state, see:

- Cape Light Compact: <http://www.capelightcompact.org/doc.ccml?15>
- KeySpan Energy: <http://www.keyspanenergy.com>
- Massachusetts Electric Company (National Grid): <http://www.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/business/energyeff/energyeff.asp>
- NSTAR Electric and Gas: http://www.nstaronline.com/your_business/
- Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company (Unitil): http://services.unitil.com/fge/bus_energy_efficiency_programs.asp
- Western Massachusetts Electric Company (Northeast Utilities): <http://www.wmeco.com/programs/save/business/indexbusiness.asp>

To read more of the AIM President's Report on electricity costs increases, see <http://aimnet.org>.

About NEEP

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is a regional nonprofit organization founded in 1996 whose mission is to promote energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry in the Northeast U.S. through regionally coordinated programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and that help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. For more information, visit www.neep.org.

-#-