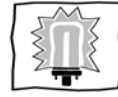


Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.



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Study: Trained building operators realize big energy savings

Persistent evaluation results confirm program benefits

LEXINGTON, Mass., Oct. 13 2005 – Commercial building managers who are trained in resource-efficient operations and maintenance practices are better able to combat rising energy costs by saving their facilities electricity, oil, gas and water, according to the results of a newly released study.

The findings were part of an evaluation of the Building Operator Certification (BOC) program, a series of competency-based training courses offered through Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP). The evaluation found that, on average, facilities served by students who complete the BOC curriculum save, on an annual basis:

- 0.35 kWhs (kilowatt hours) of electricity per square foot
- 0.40 MMBtu (million British Thermal Units) of oil per square feet
- 0.34 MMBtu of gas per square foot
- 0.14 gallons of water per square foot

Based on current retail energy prices, an average facility of approximately 600,000 square feet in size, could expect to save at least \$20,000 a year in energy costs as a result of the training.

The evaluation examined both school and non-school buildings and found that in schools, facility personnel who attend the BOC program save on average, per square foot, per year:

- 0.26 kWhs of electricity
- 0.77 MMBtu of oil
- 0.41 MMBtu of gas

These energy savings for schools are smaller than those of other facilities due to differences in occupancy and usage, according to BOC officials.

The BOC program is a series of competency-based training courses launched by NEEP in 2000 to educate facilities personnel in the energy and resource efficient operation of building systems. Since its inception, the BOC has certified over 1,100 students in the Northeast. Program graduates must demonstrate competence in evaluating energy conservation techniques, HVAC systems, efficient lighting and electrical systems, indoor air quality levels and environmental health and safety regulations. In most of the Northeast, the program is offered in conjunction with utility companies or energy efficiency program administrators, who often help underwrite the expense of the courses.

“Once again the BOC program has been shown to have significant savings and benefits,” said Ed Londergan, BOC program manager. “In addition to substantial energy savings, the program teaches students how to improve facility comfort and safety, increase indoor air quality and increase savings for labor and materials. Not only does the BOC enhance a building operator’s knowledge, thereby offering opportunities for advancement, but the savings that can be achieved by applying this knowledge are now more valuable than ever as energy costs continue to rise.”

The evaluation, conducted by RLW Analytics of Middletown, Conn. included interviews of BOC students and their supervisors, BOC instructors, efficiency program administrators and sponsors, as well as non-participants and numerous individuals who were part of a 2002 program evaluation. The evaluation was sponsored by a group of electric and gas utility companies and other energy efficiency program administrators in the Northeast, including:

Cape Light Compact
Efficiency Maine
Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)
National Grid (Massachusetts
Electric, Narragansett Electric and
Granite State Electric)
NSTAR Electric and Gas
New York Energy Research and
Development Authority

Northeast Utilities
South Jersey Gas Company
United Illuminating
Unitil

“On Cape Cod, we have seen great participation in the BOC program by municipal and business facility operators and we look forward to continuing to be a sponsor of this highly-recognized training opportunity,” said Kevin Galligan, Energy Efficiency Program Manager with the Cape Light Compact.

BOC training is an investment in continued energy savings well beyond the year in which students participate in the courses. According to the evaluation, all of the water savings, 114 percent of the electricity savings and 109 percent of the gas savings achieved as a result of BOC training “persist” or continue to be saved over a five year time period after training has been completed.

“Over 40 commercial businesses on Long Island have certified BOC professionals on staff as a result of LIPA's commitment to BOC,” said LIPA Chairman Richard Kessel. “We will continue to support these class offerings in the interest of achieving energy savings throughout LIPA's service territory.”

This fall, NEEP is offering several opportunities for building managers across the Northeast to become certified in resource efficiency. Upcoming BOC course locations and dates include:

Cape Cod, Mass.- October 12, 2005
Providence, R.I.- October 17, 2005
Long Island, N.Y.- October 24, 2005

Edison, N.J.- October 24, 2005
Portland, Maine- November 2, 2005
Wallingford, Conn.- November 17, 2005

For more information about the BOC program, or to register, please visit www.neep.org/boc or call 781-860-9177, ext 16.

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.