Energy Efficiency Programs

New Hampshire business owners have long sought new and innovative ways to lower energy costs while also making thoughtful choices about energy efficiency. As part of the NH Division of Economic Development, the Business Resource Center (BRC) seeks to assist businesses reduce energy costs by coordinating a number of business energy efficiency programs. The BRC and its partners can provide information and technical assistance on energy audits, training, and financing opportunities that will help you improve the energy efficiency of your business.

**nhsaves.com** - A good starting point for any energy efficiency question or initiative is your electric utility energy efficiency program. Available programs include energy audits, rebates, and financing. Nhsaves means you and your electric utility, working together to save energy, reduce costs, and protect the environment.

Natural gas utilities in New Hampshire also have energy efficiency programs. Further details about their programs can be found on their individual web pages.

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1. **Business Energy Audit Rebate Program** - The BRC has an Energy Audit Rebate program that provides energy audits that can help reduce your energy usage and save you money. If you are prepared to implement cost effective efficiency measures in the near future please complete the attached Energy Audit Rebate Application to determine if you qualify. Rebates applications are being accepted for energy audits up to $15,000. Please see the Rebate Program flow chart for an overview of the process. (Those who qualify will be asked to complete a Grant Agreement). This program is funded through the NH Office of Energy and Planning by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA-State Energy Program).

Highlights of NH Division of Economic Development energy services are outlined in the program participant flyers. These include The PLUS Company of Nashua and P. J. Noyes of Lancaster.

2. **BetterBuildings** - (betterbuildingsnh.com) The BetterBuildings program provides technical and financial support for energy audits along with low interest rate financing and cash incentives to business owners in Nashua, Plymouth and Berlin who implement deep energy retrofit efficiency measures.

3. **Community Development Finance Authority** - (nhcdfa.org) CDFA's Enterprise Energy Fund is a low-interest loan and grant program available to businesses and non-profit organizations to help finance energy improvements and renewable energy projects in their buildings. Loans typically range from $10,000 to $500,000.

4. **NH Business Finance Authority** - (nhbfa.com) The BFA's Business Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Fund provides direct loans to improve energy efficiency in NH workplaces. The minimum loan amount is $100,000 with loan terms up to five years.

5. **Pay for Performance** - (NHP4P.com) - Pay for Performance program comprehensively addresses energy efficiency needs of existing commercial, industrial and institutional buildings with a peak demand over 100 kW. The program provides generous incentives for those able to achieve significant energy savings (15% or more or 4% or more for manufacturing)
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6. People's United Bank Energy Efficiency Program – (peoples.com) The People's United Bank's energy efficiency program is designed to help business owners lower energy costs with a reduced interest rate loan. You can fill out a pre-qualification form online.

7. Retail Merchants Association – (rmanheep.com) The Retail Merchants Association offers detailed energy efficiency audits to analyze building energy usage. They also offer partial funding to help members implement energy efficiency projects.

8. USDA Rural Development - (rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Reap.html) The REAP/EA/REDA Grant Program provides grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. Rural Energy for America Program Guaranteed Loan Program (rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/bus/p/9006loan.htm) The REAP Guaranteed Loan Program encourages the commercial financing of renewable energy (bioenergy, geothermal, hydrogen, solar, wind, hydro power) and energy efficiency projects.

Other Resources:

A. Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency – (dsireusa.org) Provides a comprehensive list of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs available in New Hampshire and across the nation.

B. US Department of Energy offers a way to benchmark facility energy usage along with the ability to compare it to similar types of buildings through their Energy Star Portfolio Manager (energystar.gov). Also available are detailed information and links to additional energy efficiency web sites Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (eere.energy.gov).

C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) (NHMEP.org) Energy engineers conduct Lean Energy analysis as part of MEP’s Lean Energy and Environment initiative.

D. Industrial Assessment Center (ceere.org) Provides energy efficiency engineering analysis. Co-generation support for businesses is provided by: Northeast Combined Heat and Power Initiative (northeastcleanenergy.org).

E. Energy efficiency and building shell weatherization contacts: The Building Performance Institute (BPI.org) The BPI certifies energy efficiency professionals in a number of related specialties. A list of individuals accredited in NH is available on their website. The NH Residential Energy Professionals Association (REPA-NH.org) provides information about local professionals offering energy efficiency services. MyEnergyPlan.net provides web based tools for residential and small commercial buildings. If your business offers energy services, consider listing your Company for others to view.

F. Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) (nh.gov/oep) OEP provides information, data and guidance to assist decision makers on issues pertaining to development, land protection, energy use and community planning. OEP guides the state's future growth through public policy development, education, research, and partnership building through their many programs.

G. Public Utilities Commission (puc.nh.gov) Useful information on a wide range of issues for electric, natural gas and water utility customers. See the Sustainable Energy Division for helpful information and rebates.

H. Department of Environmental Services (des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/energy/index.htm) Air Resources Division Energy web listing and the NH Energy and Climate Collaborative web page for the facilitation of the implementation of the NH Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on these and other energy related services please contact: Bob Reals, Jr. Energy Program Manager, NH Division of Economic Development 271-2341 or bob.reals@dred.state.nh.us