

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS BULLETIN



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About the Programs

SCORESM and CitySmartSM are no-cost programs offered by CenterPoint Energy to school and government customers to improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

The programs offer a combination of the following services:

- **Benchmarking** support to identify energy performance among facilities.
- Developing an **Energy Master Plan** to assist the partner in managing energy costs.
- Assisting in **identifying cost-effective projects** and funding sources.
- Providing **financial incentives** for energy savings achieved from completed projects.
- **Promotion** of the partners' accomplishments through communications support.

The programs are sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and administered by CLEARresult Consulting. For more information, please contact CLEARresult at (512) 327-9200 or kputman@CLEARresult.com.

You may also contact Cheryl Bowman, CenterPoint Program Manager, at (713) 207-5631 or cheryl.bowman@centerpointenergy.com.

2009 SCORE & CitySmart Programs Recap

What a great year! As the 2009 program year came to an end last December, it was apparent that the SCORESM and CitySmartSM programs were tremendously successful.

Through 161 projects, program partners saved a total of 3.7 megawatts of electric demand, equivalent to eliminating the annual greenhouse gas emissions of about 1,000 passenger vehicles, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Calculations.



In addition, the programs paid more than \$676,800 in incentives. Program representatives

anticipate equal, if not greater success, this year.

The 2010 SCORE and CitySmart Programs kicked off January 28th at the Texas Energy Managers Association's monthly membership meeting. The meeting was the perfect opportunity to introduce new program processes and increased incentive levels for 2010.

For details about the program updates, please reference the 2010 SCORE and CitySmart Program Manual, available through your SCORE or CitySmart representative.

Big Savings Lead to Big Ideas

One megawatt of reduced electric load. Over \$170,000 in SCORE Program incentives. Humble ISD has achieved both since it joined the program in 2006, but the district's efforts to reduce energy use go well beyond the numbers. Inspired by these achievements, Humble ISD established a group of students, teachers, faculty and community volunteers to identify additional ways to conserve energy.

Known as the "Go Green Committee," this 87-member group is leading a district-wide effort to implement low-cost conservation strategies. The committee has been credited with a number of accomplishments, including the recommendation of high-performance school building design standards, specific energy

management practices such as AC set points and plug loads, and the consolidation of campus-based energy conservation and recycling programs into a single, district-wide initiative.

"It's been great to see our students and teachers take an active role in reducing energy use," said Associate Superintendent for Support Services Martha Buckner. "The work they're doing is making a real difference in our schools."

Your SCORE or CitySmart representative can share ideas on starting your own conservation initiative. Contact us to find out more.

Partner Success

The following partners have completed projects and been awarded incentives:

Lamar CISD
SCORE Partner
\$73,687 incentive

Cy-Fair ISD
SCORE Partner
\$121,217 incentive

Deer Park ISD
SCORE Partner
\$46,832 incentive

Fort Bend ISD
SCORE Partner
\$120,762 incentive

Katy ISD
SCORE Partner
\$15,327 incentive

Spring ISD
SCORE Partner
\$50,484 incentive

**CONGRATULATIONS
PARTNERS!**

Funding Your Energy Efficiency Project

Contributed by Ed King, VP Government Capital Organization

The number one reason energy efficiency projects stall is not the absence of proven energy-saving technologies, but the lack of available budget for the initial investment. This delay creates one of the largest hidden operating costs for local governments and school districts. The goal of any entity with an energy management plan should be to implement the best technology as soon as possible in order to capture what will otherwise be irretrievably wasted dollars.

Today there are many low-cost funding options available to schools and municipalities which allow for rapid deployment in the battle against waste and inefficiency. In addition to conventional tax-exempt financing structures which do not require

issuing bonds, there are state and federal programs that can further reduce the cost of financing. For example, the Qualified School Construction Bond is an ARRA program for schools that allows districts to borrow money for 15 years at interest rates ranging from 0% to 1.50%. This has allowed school districts across Texas to leverage a combination of very low capital cost with energy efficiency, resulting in substantial savings.

For more information or to schedule a workshop with your board or staff in order to learn more about these options to help move your energy efficiency project forward, contact Ed King at ed@govcap.com.

THE T12 PHASE OUT → July 1, 2010

No Longer Just an Inefficient Choice

For years, the use of inefficient T12 lamps has led to unnecessary energy spending, high maintenance costs, and poor light quality in learning and working environments. Despite the technology's inadequacy, T12 lamps still account for about 30% of all four-foot fluorescent lamp sales in the U.S. It is exactly this third of the market that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (or EPAct) was intended to address. **Beginning July 1st, federal law will prohibit the manufacture and distribution of the magnetic ballasts commonly used to drive T12 fluorescent lamps.**

More than a Mandate: an Opportunity

Fortunately, replacing inefficient T12 systems with newer technology has always been a sound investment. High-efficiency lighting systems, such as "Super" T8 lamps with premium efficiency electronic ballasts, can pay for themselves in fewer than three years through reduced energy bills, all while improving light quality in your buildings.

Your efficiency program representative can provide the tools to demonstrate the financial viability of the project, as well as information on a number of financing options that allow you to fund lighting projects over time. In addition, T12 to T8 system conversions are currently still eligible for incentive funds. While eligibility is subject to change within the next year, **it's critical that you choose the right replacement system now.**



A typical T12 lamp

2010 Program Application Process

As the SCORE and CitySmart programs continue to expand, so does the program partner roster. With such growth comes a higher demand for program services, including technical guidance, inspections and available cash incentives. To ensure that the programs continue to run smoothly and partners do not miss the opportunity to reserve incentives, the programs now require that partners complete and submit a Program Application Form.

Throughout the program application process, program representatives will be available to help partners:

- Identify projects, provide recommendations, and define project scope
- Complete pre-installation inspections
- Fill out the Project Application Form and review upon completion
- Determine savings

For more information about the programs or to request a Program Application Form, please contact Kevin Putman at (512) 327-9200, kputman@clearesult.com, or Cheryl Bowman at (713) 207-5631, cheryl.bowman@centerpointenergy.com.