

News Release



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Efficiency Maine Awards More Than a Quarter Million Dollars To Maine Small Business Owners

This year's goal: award \$400,000

Augusta, MAINE (May 26, 2004) In its first year, the Efficiency Maine Small Business Program has awarded \$260,673 in cash incentives to Maine small business owners who have installed energy efficient electric equipment according to program guidelines. Program Manager Linda Viens remarked that 225 small businesses have received cash incentives ranging from \$12 to \$20,000 since the Efficiency Maine Small Business Program was launched in April of 2003.

To date, a total of 3,564,000 kilowatt hours have been saved due to equipment installations or retrofits completed through Efficiency Maine. The total kilowatt hours saved would serve the electricity needs of 575 homes for a full year. Saving these kilowatt hours has kept 4,986,000 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, the equivalent of taking 1,586 cars off the road. Moreover, the Efficiency Maine Small Business Program is a good investment for Maine: Each dollar the Program awards to a small business will realize savings of \$6.63.

"Using electricity efficiently is good for Maine's economy, good for the environment, and good for our wallets," said Tom Welch, Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. "Small businesses are critical to Maine, and we plan to do even more this coming year, with a goal of awarding at least \$400,000 in cash incentives."

Business owners, municipalities and school systems are encouraged to learn how future energy systems upgrades and installations may qualify for cash incentives. Program information is available on the Web at www.energymaine.com or by calling toll free, 1-866-376-2463.

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The Small Business Program is one of several programs offered by Efficiency Maine, which was launched by the Maine PUC at the direction of the Legislature to promote efficient electric use, help lower overall electricity costs for Maine ratepayers, and improve the environment.