



Press Release

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Efficiency Maine Creates Unified Business Program

Cash Incentive Cap Now \$50,000

Augusta, Maine (September 1, 2004) Efficiency Maine announced the alliance of the Small Business, Commercial & Industrial, and Existing Schools Programs into one unified Efficiency Maine Business Program. Effective September 1, the unified Business Program will consolidate program offerings and help eliminate questions regarding which offering best meets individual customer needs.

Cash incentives for new construction or retrofit applications on qualified energy-efficient electric products under the new Efficiency Maine Business Program will pay up to \$50,000 per business, per calendar year. This represents an increase in the amount available for individual small businesses – those with fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees – without reducing the amount for larger businesses. All program guidelines are available on the Internet at energymaine.com or by calling toll free, 1-866-376-2463.

"Small businesses are a vital component of our energy efficiency effort," said Tom Welch, Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, of which Efficiency Maine is a part. "We believe that the new structure and increased incentives will help us bring efficiency gains to even more businesses throughout the state."

The pool of qualified businesses and organizations which can apply for cash incentives under the Efficiency Maine Business Program now includes all Maine businesses; nonprofit organizations; public and private schools, grades K-12; local and county governments; farms; water and wastewater facilities; and quasi-government and other regional systems.

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This is one of several programs offered by Efficiency Maine, which is a statewide effort to promote efficient electric use, help lower overall electricity costs for Maine ratepayers, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.