



BPA Energy Efficiency Announcement:

BPA seeks utilities to participate in commercial rooftop unit tune-up pilot program

January 20, 2009

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Energy Efficiency is seeking a limited number of utility partners to participate in commercial Rooftop Unit (RTU) tune-up pilot program during the summer and fall of 2009. These RTU tune-up pilot programs will launch in mid 2009, with the intent of having a region-wide offering in 2010. Utilities interested in learning more or participating in the programs are asked to [complete a brief survey](#) by Feb. 15, 2009.

Why a RTU Tune-up pilot program?

Effectively correcting inefficiencies in existing packaged rooftop HVAC units is widely recognized as a potential source of significant energy savings. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council estimates 75 aMW of cost-effective savings could be realized, most of it in reduced cooling energy.

There has been considerable technical research and field testing in this area in recent years, with a number of regional and national utility programs offering various diagnostic and service protocols. However, there is a noticeable lack of reliable field studies reporting measured energy savings from these various measures and programs.

BPA currently is engaged in a number of RTU energy-efficiency research projects including:

- > AirCare Plus pilot with City of Cheney Light Department, City of Chewelah, Kootenai Electric Cooperative and Inland Power & Light
- > EWEB/PECI Premium Ventilation Package field tests with pre/post metering
- > BPA/PNNL 50-Unit Automated Diagnostics field testing of energy impacts
- > RTF Rooftop Unit subcommittee lab and field tests

Pilot Program Overview

In order to inform a region-wide program, BPA will evaluate up to four RTU service program delivery contractors. Not all programs delivered by the program delivery contractors will be the same, which may result in up to four unique RTU tune-up pilots. For these pilots, BPA would like to collaborate with up to 20 selected utility partners over the summer and fall of 2009. It is anticipated that distinct delivery areas will be needed for each of the pilots. Delivery areas could consist of up to five adjacent utility territories in order to provide sufficient commercial RTU inventory for each program delivery contractor. Program delivery contractors will recruit and train commercial RTU service providers, provide marketing support and conduct quality control in order to service 600 commercial RTU's by Nov. 1, 2009.

Because predominantly cooling savings are anticipated, this pilot offering will be heating-fuel blind. To participate, utilities must complete a "consent" agreement by May 1, 2009. In this pilot, BPA will pay the program delivery contractors the entire cost for performing the RTU service. No financial contribution from the utilities' end-use customers will be required. The utility will receive a 75% high water-mark (HWM) adjustment, as well as customer recognition for the service.

About the Survey

Utilities interested in participating in the RTU tune-up pilot program are asked to complete a brief, 10-minute survey by Feb. 15, 2009. The responses to this survey are for information-gathering purposes only and are considered non-binding. The survey can be found at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=W7yuj5yqNH2S0GKy1SoLsg_3d_3d. Contact Mira Vowles (503-230-4796, mkvowles@bpa.gov) if you have difficulty accessing the online tool. If you are unable to complete the survey by Feb. 15, please contact Mira Vowles by Feb. 16, for a deadline extension.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to select pilot partners:

- > **Dedicated staff.** Utility partners must be able to contribute in-house staff for pilot program support and evaluation.
- > **Commercial RTU energy efficiency savings potential:** It will be necessary to have a large inventory of commercial RTUs in each distinct pilot area since each program delivery contractor will be evaluated on their ability to deliver service on up to 300 commercial RTUs by Nov. 1, 2009.
- > **Commercial RTU service providers:** Based on prior relationships and experience, selected utility program partners must be able to recommend several commercial RTU service providers to be recruited and trained by the program delivery contractor.
- > **Location of service territory:** BPA will work collaboratively with program delivery contractors and utility applicants to select a limited number of utilities with adjacent BPA territories in order to assure a sufficient number of commercial RTUs for each program delivery contractor.

Projected Timeline

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| Jan 29, 2009 | Overview Brown Bag. 1 p.m. Contact your Energy Efficiency Representative for additional information. |
| Feb. 15, 2009 | Survey of interest completed |
| March 19, 2009 | Preliminary interviews completed |
| March 20, 2009 | Selection of utility partners |
| May 1, 2009 | Utility agreements and program delivery contracts executed |
| May 10 - June 1, 2009 | Service provider recruitment and training phase |
| June 1 – Nov. 1, 2009 | RTU tune-up pilot program implementation |

For more information contact Mira Vowles (503-230-4796, mkvowles@bpa.gov) or your Energy Efficiency Representative:

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