

Monday, March 01, 2010

Re: OSU Energy Efficiency Center Rural Energy Audits

The OSU Energy Efficiency Center is pleased to offer Rural Energy Audits. These audits are designed to help rural businesses and farms understand their energy use patterns and identify opportunities to save energy and reduce costs. They are made possible with support from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program.

The OSU Energy Efficiency Center has been performing energy audits throughout the Northwest for over 20 years. During that time the center has identified over \$18 million and 5.8 Million MMBTU in energy savings opportunities for facilities we have served. We would like to see what we can do for you.

To qualify for a Rural Energy Audit the USDA requires that audited businesses and farms:

- Must be an agricultural producer (50% gross income is from agriculture) OR an eligible small rural business (as defined by SBA and depends on business type – typically < 500 employees & revenue < \$6.5 million).
- Are located in a rural area as defined by USDA. This includes most of the state outside the metropolitan areas of Portland, Salem-Keizer, Eugene, Medford, and Bend. (For more information see: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/bizrural.htm>)
- Share in one quarter of the audit cost. The reduced cost to rural businesses and farms is \$370.

Steps in the audit process include:

- Pre-audit information collection: including qualification data, annual month by month energy usage and cost, and an understanding of you primary energy using equipment.
- Audit: An OSU team of engineering graduate and undergraduate students will spend half a day at your site evaluating your systems, identifying energy saving opportunities and collecting data to quantify their potential. We will need your time at the start of the day for a tour, at the end of the day to review findings, and at times throughout the day to provide information and assistance in collecting data on equipment that requires your operation.
- Follow-up data collection: After the audit, the team will contact you by phone or email for any additional information that might help in their analysis.
- Report Preparation and Delivery: The report will include an analysis of your energy use patterns and specific recommendations for you to take to save energy and reduce costs (including estimated savings and implementation cost).

Prior to scheduling the audit we will ask you to:

- Gather and provide us with your last 12 months of bills from any energy (and some other) service providers you use (electricity, natural gas, fuel, water, waste disposal, etc)
- Provide annual soil amendment costs (for agricultural operations)
- Have brief conversation to provide an overview of your operation, and your energy use, especially your large equipment.

- Make a payment to us for the reduced \$370 Rural Energy Audit cost. (Once it is clear you qualify we will provide details on where to send it.)

The first Step, if you would like to take advantage of this energy saving opportunity: let us know of your interest and eligibility. Send the following by email to ruralenergyaudits@engr.orst.edu or by fax or mail to the fax number or address below:

- Business name, contact name, mailing and site address, telephone number(s):

- Nature of Operation: _____

- Number of employees: _____ Approximate Acreage: _____

Is at least 50% percent of your income from Agriculture? Yes____ , No ____
 (If you do not qualify as an agricultural producer, you may still qualify as a small rural business.)

- What are your rough annual costs for:

Nat.Gas _____ Electricity _____ Propane _____ Diesel _____
 Gasoline _____ Fertilizer _____ Other _____

- What is the range of potential dates, days of the week and times (morning or afternoon) it would work to have an audit team spend approximately 4 hours at your facility?

Date Ranges: _____

Days of the Week: Mon____ , Tue____ , Wed____ , Thu____ , Fri____ , Sat____ , Sun____

Time of day: Morning ____ and/or Afternoon ____ (check all that apply)

Notes: _____

Once we receive the above information we will contact you to begin arrangements for a visit. We will typically try to schedule two audits in one day (at yours and another nearby facility to economize on travel costs).

Thank you very much for your interest!

Sincerely,

Nathan Keeley
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