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Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center

Final Report

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Utah Nuclear Engineering Program (UNEP)

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The Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center (IIAC) at the University of Utah was established in 2001. The IIAC is funded the by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to perform energy, waste, and productivity assessments to qualified manufacturers in the intermountain region. These assessments were free and confidential to the manufacturer.

The U. S. Department of Energy's Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center (IIAC) at the University of Utah has been providing eligible small- and medium-sized manufacturers with no-cost plant assessments since 2001, offering cost-effective recommendations for improvements in the areas of energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and productivity improvement.

[<http://web.utah.edu/iac/>;

http://www.utahefficiencyguide.com/assistance/programs/industrial_assessment.htm]



Facility assessments typically involve electric, gas, water, and waste disposal bill analyses, a one day site visit to collect energy productivity and waste data, and within 60 days of the visit, the writing of a confidential report to the facility management that details the analyses, findings, and recommendations of the assessment team. Each recommendation is explained and its costs and benefits defined. Purchase costs, installation costs, and operating costs are stated separately, so that savings can be clearly computed and demonstrated. Six to nine months after delivery of the

report, an IIAC representative would follow-up to see which, if any, of the recommendations have been implemented.

Companies eligible for IIAC assessments had to be SIC Code 2000-3999 manufacturers; either an Industry of the Future, or a supplier to or customer of an Industry of the Future; and meet any three of the following four criteria: 1) have \$100,000/yr to \$2.0 million/yr in total energy costs; 2) have a maximum of 500 employees; 3) have a maximum of \$100 million/yr gross annual sales; or 4) lack in-house professional expertise in energy use and conservation.

Through the IIAC program, manufacturers received free, objective information helping make their plant cleaner, more productive, and more energy-efficient. On average, an IIAC assessment yields recommendations that can save a manufacturing facility \$55,000 annually, with an average payback period of 12 months.

Hundreds of companies were surveyed by the IIAC at the University of Utah. On Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006 Martin Door Manufacturing in Salt Lake City became the 100th company to have its energy use, waste and-or productivity evaluated by the University of Utah engineering faculty members and students.[<http://www.unews.utah.edu/p/?r=011706-4>]

An assessment by the University of Utah center benefited more than just these companies. The university maintained a practical focus for its engineering curriculum as university students received valuable hands-on experience. Taxpayers also benefited when industry conserved energy and reduced environmental impacts.

The Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center used teams of University of Utah engineering faculty and students to perform the assessments. Students from mechanical, civil, electrical and chemical engineering, as well as bioengineering, had the opportunity to gain real-world knowledge and experience by interning at the center.

Students were trained in assessment procedures, products and safety by experienced team members and a professional advisor. Students learned to collect data and develop assessment reports.

The University of Utah center closely worked with the Department of Energy's Save Energy Now program, the Utah Office of Energy Services, the university's Utah Engineering Experiment Station and the Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership.