

January/February 2006

STEAMING AHEAD

Energy-Efficiency News for Steam Plant Managers

Published by the Alliance to Save Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Read this Newsletter online at: <http://www.steamingahead.org/>

In This Edition

Energy Savings Teams Begin Assessments For “Save Energy Now”

Pressure Reduction Projects Addressed In New Steam Technical Brief From DOE BestPractices

Ask the Experts at EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse

Steam System Scoping Tool Can Organize Improvements

U.S. Department of Energy Industrial Technologies Program Solicitations

Upcoming Steam Events and Training

For the Steaming Ahead events calendar, visit:

www.steamingahead.org/calendars/

Energy Savings Teams Begin Assessments For “Save Energy Now”

The Department of Energy has begun the first Energy Savings Assessments (ESAs) of the “Save Energy Now” campaign, sending DOE Energy Experts to team with plant staff to perform ESAs at:

- 3M plant in Brownwood, TX, on November 7,
- J. R. Simplot plant in Lathrop, CA on November 9, Dow plant in Hahnville, LA on November 29,
- Rohm and Haas Plant in Grand Saline, TX on November 29,
- General Motors Plant in Flint, MI December 13, and
- Boise Mill in Jackson, AL on December 19.

The Energy Experts worked with the plant staff to assess energy use and make recommendations for achieving greater energy efficiency and productivity while reducing overall costs.

This work marks the first of 200 free ESAs, provided by the DOE as part of the “Save Energy Now” initiative, a comprehensive national energy-efficiency effort launched by Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman. ESAs are unlike traditional energy audits. Their goal is not to simply identify efficiency projects, but to establish plant staffs’ energy awareness and ability to self-improve. The DOE hopes this unique approach will foster an industrial environment that promotes efficiency as a core value.

Throughout 2006, the Energy Experts will team with plant staff to identify immediate opportunities to save energy and money in industrial facilities, focusing on steam and process heating systems, which consume nearly 80 percent of all the energy used in U.S. industry today. In addition, the DOE EERE will continue to supply BestPractices resources for compressed air, fans, motors and pumps. By improving industry’s ability to implement energy savings opportunities, the DOE helps industry prepare for energy supply shortages and cost uncertainties.

The deadline for applications has been extended until January 17, 2006. Eligibility is limited to the largest energy-consuming facilities in the United States and U.S. territories. Companies can combine facilities or collaborate with other companies to increase their energy-consumption profile. Priority for selection for ESAs will be given to plants with the largest consumption of natural gas (excluding feedstocks).

To apply for an Energy Savings Assessment, or to obtain additional energy-efficiency information, please visit the “Save Energy Now” website (<http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/saveenergynow/>).



**ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY**
Creating an Energy-Efficient World

Steaming Ahead: <http://www.steamingahead.org>

DOE BestPractices Steam: <http://www.eere.gov/industry/bestpractices/>

Alliance to Save Energy: <http://www.ase.org/>



U.S. Department of Energy
**Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy**
Bring to you experiences that enhance energy
efficiency, reliability, and affordability.

Pressure Reduction Projects Addressed In New Technical Brief From DOE Steam BestPractices

Lowering your steam pressure may be a way to cut down on energy costs. However, plant operators are cautioned to consider the impacts of lower pressure on boiler operations and steam distribution. A recently released DOE BestPractices program article, *Steam Pressure Reduction: Opportunities and Issues*, discusses the advantages and problems that are typically encountered in pressure reduction projects. Be sure to consult the article at

http://eereweb.ee.doe.gov/industry/bestpractices/pdfs/steam_pressure_reduction.pdf

For additional articles, visit the BestPractices program technical library at

<http://eereweb.ee.doe.gov/industry/bestpractices/technical.asp>

Ask the Experts at EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse

If you have questions about making your steam system more efficient, perhaps the experts at EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse (<http://www.energyideas.org/>) can provide an answer. This website, managed by the Washington State University Extension Energy Program and sponsored by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, contains questions and answers by steam system end-users and energy engineers on almost all steam system topics, including components and operations. The site also includes a wealth of information about other technologies, such as motor drives, compressed air, and insulation.

The EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse website can be found at: <http://www.energyideas.org/>

Bonus: End users in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) can also direct specific questions here:

<http://www.energyideas.org/about/default.cfm?o=h,a,as&c=z,z,95>

Please also visit the WSU Extension Energy Program or the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance websites for more information about energy efficiency in the Northwest. <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/>, <http://www.nwalliance.org/>

Steam System Scoping Tool Can Organize Improvements

Are you interested in making your steam system more efficient, but don't know where to begin? The DOE Steam System Scoping Tool (SSST) provides an easy, self-administered scorecard to help get you started. The SSST poses 26 "yes-no" questions to identify improvement opportunities for your current steam system. The SSST will also suggest best practice methods to make your system and operations as efficient and productive as possible. All information is organized in a spreadsheet that allows you to archive and update results over time.

Access the Steam System Scoping Tool software in the DOE software library at

<http://eereweb.ee.doe.gov/industry/bestpractices/software.html>

DOE Industrial Technologies Program Solicitations

The DOE-ITP provides cost-shared funding for qualified research and development projects. Awards are based on a competitive process open to collaborative teams, which may include academia, suppliers, universities, national labs, and others. The following is a list of active and upcoming solicitations. More information about each solicitation is available from the DOE-ITP "Solicitations" Web page: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/financial/solicitations.html>.

Solicitation Title	Solicitation Opens	Proposals Due	Selection Announcements	Funding
Industrial Assessment Centers	10/31/2005	01/24/2006	TBD	Up to \$6,000,000
Innovative Energy Systems Challenge	10/20/2005	01/25/2006	TBD	DOE expects up to \$4 million to be available in Phase I.
Chemicals Industry of the Future	09/07/2005	01/11/2006	TBD	DOE expects to fund projects at \$500,000 for the first 12 months, with a maximum of \$10 million for the remaining years.

Note: Official notices of solicitations can be found at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov> or in the Federal Register. This list is for information only—it may not be inclusive of all solicitations. Funding amounts and schedule dates are subject to change.



Steaming Ahead: <http://www.steamingahead.org>

DOE BestPractices Steam: <http://www.eere.gov/industry/bestpractices/>

Alliance to Save Energy: <http://www.ase.org/>



Upcoming Steam Events and Training

If your organization is interested in hosting a US DOE Steam Training session, please contact Ann Deming, of Project Performance Corporation, at 703-748-7096.

U.S. Department of Energy Steam Specialist Qualification Training

The DOE BestPractices Steam Specialist Qualification Training program is a two-and-a-half day course teaching the effective use of DOE BestPractices Steam software tools. The DOE recognizes participants who pass the final exam as Qualified Specialists in the use of the BestPractices Steam Software Tools. For a full course description, visit http://www.steamingahead.org/temp/gstraining_desc.pdf.

- January 24 to 26, 2006: Center Valley, Pennsylvania
Angie Funk: afunk@spirax.com, 800-251-7676

U.S. Department of Energy Steam Assessment Workshop

This one-day workshop covers operations of typical steam systems and presents methods for improving system efficiency. The workshop will help steam system staff to better identify opportunities for saving energy. For a full course description, please visit the DOE BestPractices Training Calendar: http://eereweb.ee.doe.gov/industry/bestpractices/event_calendar.asp?filterETtype=4

- February 1, 2006: Houston, Texas
Kathy Ferland: 512-232-4823, kferland@mail.utexas.edu

U.S. Department of Energy Optimizing Steam System Performance Workshops

Optimizing Steam System Performance workshops are one-day awareness workshops exposing participants to DOE BestPractices Steam software tools and resources, steam-system-optimization opportunities and available industrial assistance programs.

Upcoming courses are listed below. For more information, visit the *Steaming Ahead* training and events calendar (<http://www.steamingahead.org/calendars/>). To register for a specific workshop, contact the individual associated with the workshop.

- August 28, 2006: Atlantic City, New Jersey
Adam Hudson: 202-530-4356, ahudson@ase.org