

MMUA Energy Services Bulletin

July 2010

FERC's DEMAND RESPONSE SURVEY IS DUE JULY 31

Last month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) initiated a survey of demand response programs and advanced metering capabilities. FERC asked all 3,400 electric utilities in the country to complete the survey by **July 31, 2010**. MMUA and APPA is assisting FERC by publicizing the survey via our list-serves and newsletter.

Given the strong national focus on saving energy and lowering emissions, it is important to show that public power utilities are actively pursuing demand response solutions. Public power has a good story to tell on DR, but prior survey results have not reflected this. Rather, the co-ops come out looking like the most progressive utility sector in the DR area. Please help us change this situation!

The survey form, FERC-731, is available for download from FERC's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/dr-2010-survey>. The survey may be submitted electronically by e-mailing the completed survey file to DRSurvey@ferc.gov. FERC will also accept survey responses that are completed in paper format. (See the FERC link, above, for mailing directions.) FERC has also provided a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document (available at the FERC link) that provides answers to the questions most often asked in previous surveys. In addition, questions can be directed to 1-888-585-9232 between 9:00 am and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or DRsurvey-help@ferc.gov.

FREE ENERGY STAR BENCHMARKING ASSISTANCE

The first step to save money on energy bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions at your facilities is to assess your current energy performance. This summer, U.S. EPA Region 5 is offering municipal and county government facilities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin free one-on-one technical assistance to benchmark their facilities using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. Municipal and county governments, school districts and wastewater treatment authorities are all eligible. Benchmarking in Portfolio Manager lets you compare the energy performance of your facility to others nationwide, adjusting for weather and other important facility and operational characteristics. EPA Region 5 can set up your password protected Portfolio Manager account and enter your energy consumption and cost data.

To learn more about the one-on-one technical assistance in ENERGY STAR benchmarking that is available from U.S. EPA Region 5, please contact [Elham Tallackson](mailto:ElhamTallackson@epa.gov) (abdishi-tallackson.elham@epa.gov) at 312-353-8242.

The link to the site is:

<http://www.epa.gov/r5climatechange/energy-star-benchmarking.html>

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REQUEST FOR CASE STUDIES ON BIOMASS

APPA is currently working on a report outlining the opportunities and challenges to using biomass as a fuel source for electricity generation. This study will be similar (though not nearly as lengthy) as the Natural Gas study they just completed – looking at supply, transportation, and other challenges to biomass as well as the benefits and opportunities. They would like to supplement it with case studies from member utilities who have either considered biomass and opted against it or who are using biomass for generation currently – we would like the report to be balanced so we want to detail both the successes and challenges that biomass has posed to our members. These challenges can be access to biomass material, labor costs, logistics and transportation time/cost and overall costs of the commodity given its Btu value. If you have any information you would be willing to share, please let me know or contact J.P. Blackford at APPA:

jblackford@appanet.org

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON A POSSIBLE NEW PROGRAM

We are working with the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) at the University of Minnesota along with Honeywell to deliver a Programmable Thermostat rebate program to our members. The rebate would be \$5.00 on a programmable thermostat under \$50.00 and \$10.00 on a programmable thermostat costing more than \$50.00. These rebates would be from Honeywell. Any Utility or Joint Action Agency wishing to participate, please let me know, this is a limited offer from Honeywell and can also be enhanced by your own programs.

RJagusch@mmua.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROPOSALS DUE AUGUST 4th

Minnesota school districts and local governments (municipal utilities must apply through the respective city) can apply for funding through the Local Government Renewable Energy Grant Program. Grants will be awarded competitively to eligible school districts and local governments for solar electric and solar thermal projects, wind projects, geothermal heating and cooling projects, combined heat and power projects and district energy projects.

<http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?programid=536917261&sc3=null&sc2=null&id=-536893811&agency=Energy>