

Energy Efficiency & Customer Research & Development presents...

Customer Advanced Technologies Program Newsletter

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In this issue...

- From the Editor's Desk
- Technology Spotlight: CoolTrol®
- The Customer Advanced Technologies Program

From the Editor's Desk

The Christmas decorations have been put away and the children are back in school. It's time to ramp up the activity level for the 2006 program.

Many of you have asked me how we choose which technologies to evaluate. Research ideas come from a variety of sources including:

- ✓ SMUD customers
- ✓ California Energy Commission (CEC)
- ✓ Technology vendors
- ✓ SMUD program planners
- ✓ Other utilities
- ✓ E-Source
- ✓ Industry trade shows
- ✓ California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC)
- ✓ National Labs
- ✓ Builders and contractors
- ✓ 2.a.m. inspirations (very rare)
- ✓ SMUD Energy Specialists
- ✓ Many others...

The real trick is not coming up with new ideas – it is deciding which ideas to focus upon. Last year, we worked really hard to start developing a process for transitioning emerging technologies to SMUD's rebate programs. Because of this, one of the main selection criteria is whether a technology has the potential to be incorporated into SMUD's mainstream programs. Although we will still work on cutting-edge technologies, we will be taking a closer look at the capabilities of the companies promoting them.

Technology Spotlight: CoolTrol®

Walk-in coolers and freezers can account for a whopping 50 percent of the overall electrical energy consumption for small food and liquor stores. During the second half of 2005, we worked with four local storeowners to evaluate a refrigeration management system known as CoolTrol®.

CoolTrol reduces energy costs by optimizing the operation of walk-in coolers and freezers. Although CoolTrol is relatively new to the West Coast, its manufacturer, National Resource Management, states that over 3,000 systems are in use throughout the country.

Project Results

Our four test sites included three food and liquor stores and a natural foods store. Over the six-month test period, CoolTrol reduced energy consumption at the four test sites by up to twenty-four percent...not just the refrigeration system, but for the entire site!

SMUD's Commercial Program Planning Department is analyzing information from this project and determining the best way to incorporate CoolTrol into a rebate program for 2006. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the CoolTrol project, download the technology brief via the Customer Advanced Technologies web page at www.smud.org/education/cat/index.html

The Customer Advanced Technologies Program

SMUD's CAT program works with customers to encourage the use and evaluation of new or underutilized technologies. The program provides research grants to customers for eligible technologies in exchange for monitoring rights. For more program information, please visit: <http://www.smud.org/education/cat/index.html>

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