



Texas Industries of the Future

February 2006

TRAINING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2006.

- Sixth Texas Industrial Energy Management Forum. April 6, 4 to 6 pm. Brady's Landing, Houston. Registration open in March at the Texas IOF website. The program includes speakers from DuPont, Tesoro, and Jacobs Consultancy.
- Food Processors and Energy Efficiency. March 9, 2006. San Antonio and College Station. See the full article below.
- See the Texas IOF Energy-Efficiency Calendar for other energy-efficiency training opportunities.

HOW FOOD PROCESSORS CAN INCREASE PROFITS FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY. On Thursday, March 9, 2006, the U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with the Northwest Food Processors Association and others will host a teleconference: "Industrial Efficiency Initiative: Save Energy, Maximize Profits." The national satellite teleconference will focus on sound, proven management strategies, as well as innovative technologies and techniques used to reduce energy costs, increase productivity, and maximize profits. Speakers from Frito lay, Del Monte, Fetzer Vineyards, J.R. Simplot, and COGENTECH will describe their programs. The teleconference will be broadcast from 11 a.m. to 2 pm Central Time in two locations in Texas (College Station and San Antonio) and at locations throughout the United States. Cost to attend is \$60 per person, with group/multiple attendee discounts available. For more information, to locate a downlink site nearest you, to establish a downlink site, or to register, contact the Logistics Coordinator at the Northwest Food Processors Association at 503-327-2200 or go to www.nwfpa.org. Brochure posted on the TxIOF website.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RENEWABLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RURAL AREAS. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of funds for fiscal year (FY) 2006 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. The amount available for competitive grants is \$11.385 million. Approximately \$176.5 million in guaranteed loan authority is also available. For renewable energy systems, the minimum grant request is \$2,500 and the maximum is \$500,000. For energy efficiency improvements, the minimum acceptable grant request is \$1,500 and the maximum is \$250,000. The maximum amount of a guaranteed loan made to a borrower will be \$10 million. For FY 2006, the guarantee fee

amount is 1.0% (one percent) of the guaranteed portion of the loan and the annual renewal fee is 0.125% (one-eighth of one percent) of the guaranteed portion of the loan. Go to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html> for more information.

ARE YOU WONDERING IF THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005 WILL AFFECT YOUR OPERATIONS? Check out the summary put together by Washington State University under “What’s New” on the Texas IOF web page. This document provides links to authoritative sources and summaries that address topics such as tax incentives, biomass and renewables.

ENERGY BUDGET NEWS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy budget request is \$2.6 million more than the FY 2006 appropriations, a 0.2 percent increase. Much of this funding expands key programs that focus on developing new energy choices, including: hydrogen fuel and fuel cell technology (\$196 million, a 6.5 percent increase); biomass (\$150 million, a 65 percent increase); solar power (\$148 million, a 79 percent increase); and wind energy (\$44 million, a 13 percent increase). The Biomass Program includes the President’s Biofuels Initiative, which aims to develop cost-competitive, biobased liquid transportation fuels, and the Solar Program includes the President’s Solar America Initiative, which aims to develop cost-competitive solar cell technologies by 2015. You can see a detailed analysis of the President’s budget request at <http://www.ssti.org/>

ARE YOU A SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED FACILITY, CONCERNED ABOUT ENERGY COSTS? Texas IOF at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University have developed a step-by-step assessment manual that will assist you to identify and screen potential projects at your plant. The manual comes with a calculator which allows you to estimate energy, cost and emissions reductions from potential projects at your plant, based on data you input. The 16 projects included in the manual and calculator cover compressed air, combustion and steam, motors, lighting, and chiller projects. You can download the manual and calculator from the Texas IOF website at <http://TexasIOF.ces.utexas.edu>