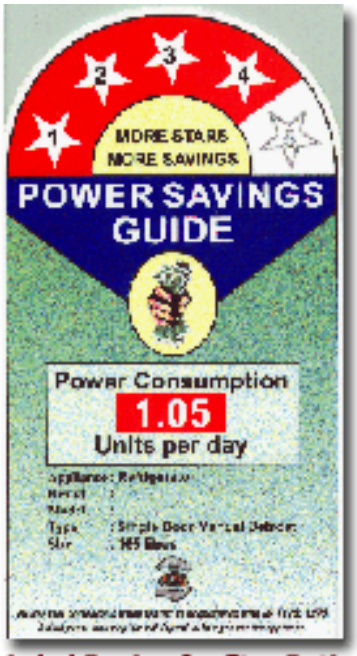
December 2005 e-Newsletter of the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC)

Top Stories

Appliance Energy Labels Launched in India



Label Design for Star Rating Program in India

An energy-efficiency rating scheme for electrical appliances will soon come into force in India. The much-awaited star rating for consumer electronics and electrical appliances will come into force in India by the year-end, through a notification by the Ministry of Power. The rating will grade models on their energy efficiency, starting from one star for the least energy-efficient, and going up to five stars, for the most energy-efficient model. Though sources close to the development say the initial test period will cover refrigerators and will be a voluntary initiative from manufacturers, the target is to make it mandatory by mid-2007.

"Though technically we are ready for a number of products, the Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP) will initiate the process with refrigerators. A high level of consumer awareness and participation is needed to make this program a success," said Tanmay Tathagat, advisor to the Ministry of Power and Senior Energy Efficiency Specialist with IIEC-India. A study done by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency revealed that the scope for savings is as much as 25-30 percent of the power produced in the country. According to Tathagat, standards for a number of products such as tube lights, pumps, motors, air conditioners, televisions are already ready.

The move by the government to bring the star rating for consumer electronic and electrical appliances was kicked off way back in 1999, with the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee which was followed by an act of Parliament in 2001, called the Energy Conservation Act. This was later followed by establishment in 2002 of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, with an agenda to make the star rating mandatory by 2007.

Along with the implementation of this star rating program, the BEE will also kick off a campaign to educate the consumers on the star rating scheme. Adequate precautions have also been taken to avoid spurious star labels from entering the market. "The labels will have a hologram with a serial number that will give details of the manufacturers, model and make of the product, making it practically impossible for any foul play," said Tathagat. The innovative use of this hologram was pioneered by IIEC working with Bangalore, India in its compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) program, which was launched in December 2004.

For more information on the Star Rating Program, please contact Tanmay Tathagat at ttathagat@iiec.org.

Shaping Energy Policy Research in Thailand

In mid-2005, the Joint Graduate School for Energy & Environment (JGSEE) was assigned by the Thai Research Fund (TRF) to implement the Energy Policy Research Project. The project is designed to provide information, analysis and policy recommendations to support high-level decision-making on Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE), as well as R&D on technologies that will assist the government to meet its ambitious targets for RE and EE utilization. The project's objectives also include assessment of human resource requirements and research and development (R&D) plan to promote RE and EE in the long-run.

The Home Page of www.thaienergy.org (the page is also viewable in English)

RE and EE in Thailand have been categorized into 14 research areas including Transportation, Industry, Commercial Building, Residential Building, Agricultural Waste, Biogas, Waste, Ethanol, Bio-diesel, Hydro, Wind, Solar PV, High Temp. and Low Temp. Solar Thermal. A team of domestic experts will be assigned by JGSEE to each research area to evaluate domestic potential and applicability of RE and EE technologies to Thailand. The assessment conducted by each research group will be completed in early 2006. JGSEE has engaged the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC) to provide administrative and technical support services to JGSEE in the overall implementation of the Project.

IIEC-Bangkok is providing assistance to JGSEE in organizing and facilitating steering committee meetings, and will support and organize stakeholder meetings, research group meetings, as well as ensure that reports are prepared and produced in a high-quality and timely manner. IIEC also designed and developed a professional and unique bi-lingual project collaboration web site, www.thaienergy.org, which aims to enhance the effectiveness of collaboration and information sharing among JGSEE, IIEC and the research groups. The collaboration web site compiles information and summaries from related RE and EE studies previously conducted by various agencies in Thailand. Other relevant international RE and EE studies will also be reviewed and added to the database. These on-line technical references will assist each research group in avoiding repetitive work and focusing on the issues that will complement the previous research.

For more information on the Thailand Energy Policy Research Project, please contact Sommai Phon-Amnuaisuk at sphonamnuaisuk@iiec.org.

Other Stories

IIEC Creates the Green Collateral ™ Investment

There is now a new way to support IIEC's mission to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency around the world, in every walk of life. In addition to donations, well wishers and supporters of IIEC now can make a deposit that will secure collateral to support the operations and growth of IIEC. Through a mechanism developed with CitiGroup and PNC Bank, IIEC's supporters can set aside a part of their portfolio for the investment in 5-year certificates of deposit (CDs) that provide the bank's normal rate of return. The banks have agreed to use these third-party deposits as collateral toward a credit line that IIEC can use for its operations and growth. IIEC also is finalizing the necessary papers to enable it to pay additional interest to supporters for the use of the CDs as collateral for the line of credit. The innovative Green Collateral ™ mechanism is the first of its kind by an NGO working in the field of sustainable energy. It will enable IIEC to finance and support its international operations, and at the same time will allow its supporters to ensure that a part of their portfolio directly supports the mission that they value so dearly.

For further details on the terms of the Green Collateral mechanism, contact IIEC's President, Dr. Nitin Pandit at npandit@iiec.org.

IIEC LP Gas Imbizo

Representatives of the LP Gas industry at the IIEC Imbizo

More than four hundred people from local communities, NGOs, local and national government and the LP Gas Industry attended the ***imbizo*** organized by IIEC-Africa on the 27th of October 2005 at Orange Farm, Region 11 of Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan. The word "imbizo" is derived from the Zulu root "-biza" meaning "to call" suggesting a calling together of the community for consultation. The imbizo was a part of IIEC's LP Gas program supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This event was co-sponsored by the LP Gas Industry including Totalgaz, BP Gas and Easigas, and South Africa's Central Energy Fund (CEF).

The imbizo was geared towards the facilitation of dialogue between members of the community and the national stakeholders, to provide a platform for the community to interact with the LP Gas industry and Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), and also to understand the views of the community about LP Gas.

The IIEC LP Gas imbizo was a culmination of a two-year work program conducted in Orange Farm and Fine Town, both within the Region 11 of Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan. IIEC's work entailed baseline research coupled with community meetings, aimed at fully understanding energy-use patterns and resource availability in the communities. These were then followed by intensive and targeted demonstrations and information campaigns held at public places within the Orange Farm and Fine Town areas, to educate people on the benefits of LP Gas as a fuel of choice and to alleviate the negative perceptions toward LP Gas.

For more information on the IIEC LP Gas imbizo, please contact Jackie Kleinot at jkleinot@iiec.org.

Biomass for Energy Production in a Philippines Rural Community

With funding from the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), IIEC-Philippines is conducting a pre-feasibility study that will determine the availability of biomass materials for use as fuel to a proposed biomass power plant in Panukulan, Polillio Island, Quezon Province, which will supplement the island's current domestic energy supply. Being one of the poorest municipalities in the Philippines, only 360 of the 2,400 households living in this part of the island have access to electricity.

Potential Site for the Proposed Biomass Power Plant in Polillio Island

The overall goal of the project will be to alleviate poverty, and the pre-feasibility study will include an assessment of the livelihood applications of biomass power in the agricultural and fishing sector. Examples of livelihood applications identified are rice mills, mini coconut oil mills, and ice making and cold storage facilities. The study will also include a socio-economic survey that will establish the priorities, needs and interests of the community. This will ensure that the proposed biomass power plant and its livelihood applications are acceptable to the people and responsive to their development goals.

Partners in this undertaking are CRL Energy Limited of New Zealand and the Institute of Social Order of the Ateneo De Manila University.

For more information on the biomass feasibility study, please contact Jason Tan at jtan@iiec.org.

Revisiting Green IPP in the Philippines

The concept of a Green Independent Power Producer (GRIPP), or Greenergy, has been proposed and evaluated for implementation in Negros Occidental for several years. To move the idea forward, IIEC, with funding from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, is re-evaluating the concept in light of the reforms in the newly restructured Philippine electricity market.

GRIPP is a concept where renewable energy power producers are interconnected to create a hybrid distributed system to complement each other and overcome the intermittency and seasonality of the individual producers. Capitalizing on the advantage of resource and dispatch synergies between distributed renewable energy technologies, the study will determine the conditions and structures to support the operation of a "hybrid generator" in the Philippines. It will also examine the potential role of GRIPP for some "market intermediation" in the emerging Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

In the last two missions that IIEC has taken to the Philippines, two principal options have come to light. The first is to establish a smaller GRIPP structure in off-grid areas currently serviced by the Special Power Utilities Group of the National Power Corporation. This opportunity came with the regulation allowing Qualified Third Party (QTP) to assume power delivery in remote areas under attractive tariff terms. Th second is to create a renewable energy power aggregator that will operate as a commercial player within the WESM.

For more information on GRIPP, please contact Jason Tan at jtan@iiec.org.