



Extension Snapshot

Investing in Energy Conservation Saving Funds Locally

A community's economic future will be determined in large part by its energy choices. With rapidly rising energy costs, local government and businesses everywhere are actively exploring ways to improve energy efficiency and promote energy conservation. On March 2 and 3rd, University of Illinois Extension sponsored workshops in Macomb and Quincy in partnership with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC). More than 60 individuals representing school districts, local government, and businesses participated in these workshops.

The [Smart Energy Design Assistance Center \(SEDAC\)](#) provides advice and analyses enabling private and public facilities in the State of Illinois to increase their economic viability through the efficient use of energy resources. SEDAC is managed by the University of Illinois [School of Architecture](#) in Urbana-Champaign and the [360 Energy Group](#). It is sponsored by the [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) in partnership with Ameren Illinois Utilities and provides valuable services at *no cost* to for-profit businesses and public facilities.



Since participating in the workshop, 3 local school districts (Farmington, Spoon River Valley near Fairview and Astoria) have completed assessments and received DCEO grants as a result of technical assistance provided by University of Illinois. Also, 12 businesses and units of local government have worked with University of Illinois in conducting energy assessments and creating a multiyear plan for energy conservation investments. Additionally, 36 business walkthroughs were conducted in Havana, Macomb, and Quincy. These visits helped businesses

identify energy saving opportunities, learn how to best utilize Ameren Illinois ActOnEnergy incentives available to assist with energy efficiency projects, and inform them of the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) assessment services; 9 businesses have implemented energy conservation recommendations since April representing more than \$6,000 in annual cost savings to the businesses.

University of Illinois Extension will be sponsoring a repeat workshop for local government and businesses on October 26th at the Bradley Technology Commercialization Center in Peoria.

For more information about the Community and Economic Development programs in the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Extension unit, please contact Kathleen Brown, Extension Educator, Community and Economic Development at brownlk@illinois.edu or 309-255-9189.

