Sustainability Initiative Projects

2012

Hells Canyon Power Plant Lighting Upgrade
Seventeen sodium-vapor exterior light fixtures were replaced with 11 LED fixtures. This led to improved employee safety and productivity while reducing maintenance and lamp-replacement costs.

Hells Canyon Complex Recycling Signage
A new solid-waste contract added recycling services at our Hells Canyon parks and recreational facilities. While we are billed for hauling trash and recycling out of the canyon, there is no fee for disposing of recyclables. The signage encourages users to recycle, which cuts costs for the company and customers.

Dyson Airblade Hand Dryers at Boise Campus West
New Dyson hand dryers in restrooms enhance employee health while reducing the use and expense of paper towels.

Corporate Headquarters Lighting Upgrade
Magnetic ballasts and T-12 lamps were replaced with electronic ballasts and T-8 lamps in all stairwells, bathrooms and conference rooms. Occupancy sensors, installed where appropriate, also reduce energy usage.

Greenleaf Wet-Meadows Project
Working with the Riverside Canal Company and the City of Greenleaf, we initiated the design and construction of a wet-meadows area to filter agricultural runoff water before it enters the Boise and Snake rivers. Once established, runoff will exhibit reduced sediment and chemical loads, and temperature.

Bike Storage at Boise Campus West
Design work was initiated for the addition of a bicycle storage rack for employees.

Hydroelectric Plant Lighting Upgrades
Magnetic ballasts and T-12 lamps were replaced with electronic ballasts and T-8 lamps in seven hydroelectric plants.

Bully Creek Gauge Upgrade
An upgraded water-monitoring gauge provides more robust data, and reduces maintenance and labor costs.

Daly Creek Vault Toilet
A new concrete vault toilet reduces impact to the area and is a significant benefit for employees and recreationists.
Solar/LED Parking Lot Lights

Solar lights built and installed by Idaho-based Inovus replaced traditional lighting in one parking lot at our corporate headquarters. In addition to reduced energy consumption, the project gives our company hands-on experience with the new technology and helps us further understand how it may impact our system.

“Access Door” for Hells Canyon Complex Campground Maintenance Building

A standard-sized door was installed to reduce the use of an existing retractable garage door, which allowed heated and cooled air to escape. The new door reduces energy usage by reducing air exchange and eases strain on HVAC equipment.

Landscape Retrofit at Mountain Home Operations Center

When the City of Mountain Home asked businesses to reduce well-water usage, we responded with a landscaping retrofit which replaced ground cover and eliminated the need for much of the irrigation system.

Bus Shelter at West Boise Campus

Working with Valley Ride Transit, we provided land and built a bus shelter adjacent to our facility in exchange for credit toward an employer-funded bus pass program. This effort supports our commitment to alternative transportation and a reduction in single-occupant vehicle trips.

Lighting Upgrade at Hagerman Maintenance Shop

Upgraded lighting will save 45,000 kWh of energy each year while providing better illumination for employees. This leads to a safer and more productive work environment.

HVAC Assessment and Upgrade at Boise Operations Center

Our Energy Efficiency and Facilities Maintenance staff independently verified an opportunity to significantly enhance HVAC efficiencies, address air-quality issues, and promote employee comfort and productivity. A third-party mechanical engineer was brought in to assess and design system improvements.

Zero RPM Batteries

Fleet Services staff installed Zero RPM batteries in two company vehicles. The units allow for complete engine shutdown while still providing electrical power to maintain heating/cooling, lights, and radio and laptop operations. This results in reduced fuel usage and tailpipe emissions, and reduces noise impacts to nearby customers.
Occupancy Programming at Boise Campus West

Computer room "occupancy programming" was incorporated into the Building Management System. This allows one air-conditioning unit to be idled when the system detects the room is unoccupied, bringing an annual energy savings estimated at over 33,000 kWh.

Data Center Dry-Cooler Fan Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)

Installing VFDs at our company's data centers will result in substantial energy savings. We estimate the combined savings to be over 240,000 kWh annually.

HVAC Upgrade at Boise Operations Center

Addressing recommendations from the 2013 HVAC assessment, VFDs and other equipment upgrades were installed to enhance air-handling efficiencies and improve employee comfort and productivity.

Environmentally Responsible Floor Scrubber

A new floor scrubber purchased for the Fleet Services and Trans Test areas promises to reduce labor costs and save 15,000 gallons of water, 25 gallons of kerosene and 200 kWh of energy annually.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) for Treasure Valley Circulator Route

Two Nissan Leafs were purchased for use by employees traveling between our Treasure Valley properties. The vehicles yield substantial fuel savings, require little maintenance, divert emissions from the Treasure Valley airshed, and promote EV adoption and awareness. To ensure the vehicles remain properly "fueled," five charging stations were installed throughout the Boise-area properties.

EV Charging Demonstration Project

In partnership with a prominent Boise retailer, an EV charging station was installed on their property to further promote EV adoption and awareness.

Electric Utility Vehicle

An electric utility vehicle (four-wheeler) was purchased for use by our Environmental staff in Idaho Power's Woodhead Park campground in Hells Canyon. The new vehicle yields fuel savings, has no emissions and, as a benefit to campers, makes very little noise.

Solar Shades for Daly Creek Office

Solar shades were installed outside west-facing windows to reduce heat gain in summer months. This means less energy used for cooling, and increased employee comfort and productivity.

Solar Project at Sturgill Creek

Environmental staff working at Sturgill Creek often needs to stay in tents for days on end. A better (and cost-effective) solution was to retrofit a shipping container as a domicile. A custom solar system was devised to provide power for outlets and lighting.

Solar Security Cameras

Two infra-red security cameras (powered by a photovoltaic system) were installed to help deter theft of materials from the storage yard at our Boise Operations Center.
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations were installed at these operations centers: BCW, Boise, Canyon, Payette, Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Wood River. These stations provide charging for fleet and employee-owned EVs.

Electric Vehicles

Two Chevy Volt passenger cars were purchased for use by employees at our Pocatello and Twin Falls Operations Centers. Wrapped in Idaho Power logos, the vehicles provide reduced tailpipe emissions while promoting Idaho Powered™ transportation.

Lighting Upgrades

Upgraded lighting at the Emmett Operations Center Garage and occupancy sensors at the Records Center will greatly reduce internal use of electricity while promoting safe, efficient workspaces.

Bicycle Repair Stations

Free-standing bicycle repair stations were installed at CHQ, BCW and two Hells Canyon campgrounds to facilitate basic bicycle maintenance and promote riding by employees and visitors. The stations include multiple tools and an air pump securely attached to the mounting stand. Hanger arms allow the wheels to spin freely while making adjustments.

Idle Reduction Monitors

In an effort to reduce fuel usage and tailpipe emissions, Idle Reduction Units were installed in 12 fleet vehicles. As a result, the vehicle engines can be turned off while still providing HVAC in the cab along with radio and computer power.
2016

**Lighting Upgrades**

Lighting upgrades and the installation of occupancy sensors in the bathrooms at Copperhead Park in Hells Canyon have reduced electricity use while providing safer and brighter facilities for canyon visitors.

**Twin Falls Operations Center Photovoltaic Array**

A 50-kilowatt fixed-tilt rooftop photovoltaic system was installed on the roof of the new Twin Falls Operations Center for approximately $3 per watt. The array is separately metered, providing valuable data on photovoltaic systems as more customers install their own rooftop arrays.
Our Sustainability Platform is made up of five elements. For Idaho Power, this platform serves as a natural extension of our vision, values and mission, and sets the tone for sustainable business strategies that create long-term value for our stakeholders.