

Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Commercial New Construction Program

PG&E first offered its Commercial New Construction program in May 1990 in an effort to encourage the design and construction of new nonresidential buildings that exceed the California Energy Commission's Title 24 standards by 10% or more. (Note that under the California energy code major remodels qualify as "new" construction.) The program is designed to supplement Title 24 standards, increase market acceptance of advanced energy-efficient building technologies and materials, and prevent lost opportunities in new building construction. PG&E provides information assistance to help builders, architects, engineers, and developers early in the planning and design stages of new commercial buildings to maximize the level of achievable savings. In addition, PG&E provides financial incentives to program participants. Rebates of up to 100% of the incremental cost for demonstrated improvements over Title 24 standards are available in the following building categories: lighting, high performance glazing with daylighting, motors and adjustable speed drives, cooling, and energy-efficient refrigeration.

Given the time lag between building design and actual construction, savings are presented each year in terms of "actual" for which rebates are paid, and "committed." In 1991, the program's first full year, PG&E attributed 6.8 MW in actual demand savings and 19.4 MW in committed demand savings to the Commercial New Construction program. Actual energy savings in 1991 were 24.3 GWh and committed energy savings were 72.3 GWh. Incentive payments totalling \$1,460,900 were paid out in 1991, while committed payments topped \$6 million.

In July of 1992, the California energy code was revised and clarified and allows for prescriptive and performance-based methods of compliance. To match the new energy code requirements, PG&E introduced three new program tracks that parallel the new code compliance requirements and which offer cash incentives for exceeding Title 24 efficiency standards for new construction. The new programs represent an evolution of the PG&E's original Large and Small Commercial New Construction Incentive Programs which started in 1990. Two of the three new programs tracks are prescriptive methods, the "Prescriptive Express Program" and "Prescriptive Plus", both of which require installation of specific energy-efficient technologies. The third track is a performance method called the "Performance by Design Program", and requires using California Energy Commission computer modeling to establish an allowed energy budget for a new building from which PG&E can determine the incentive appropriate for marginal improvements above the California Energy Code.

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PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY Commercial New Construction Program

Sector: Commercial

Measures: Lighting, high performance glazing with daylighting, efficient motors and adjustable speed drives, energy efficient cooling and refrigeration.

Mechanism: Rebates and technical assistance

History: Began May 1990, modified in 1992.

1991 Program Data

Energy savings: 24.3 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 413 GWh
Capacity savings: 6.78 MW
Cost: \$3,281,900

Cumulative Data (1990-1991)

Energy savings: 25.4 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 419 GWh
Capacity savings: 6.86 MW
Cost: \$4,142,900
Participation rate: ~ 20 - 30%

The Results Center produced 126 profiles of the most successful energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the United States and around the world in the early and mid 1990s. With the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ted Flanigan directed a research team at Colorado-based IRT Environment to produce and distribute these exceptional examples. Thanks to strong demand for solid case studies, The Results Center was supported by dozens of major utilities and energy associations worldwide. Today, The Results Center is managed again by Ted Flanigan, now at California-based EcoMotion Incorporated, a firm focused on strategic consulting, information dissemination, program design, outreach services, and aggressive implementation. To nominate highly successful programs, contact: The Results Center, c/o EcoMotion, 15375 Barranca Parkway, F-104, Irvine, CA 92618, (949) 450-7155, or TFlanigan@EcoMotion.us