

Village of Orland Park

NEWSRelease

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ComEd Extends Application Deadline for “Smart Ideas for Your Business”

Orland Park Businesses Encouraged to Explore Incentives

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park is encouraging local businesses to take advantage of ComEd’s “Smart Ideas for Your Business Incentives.” The deadline to apply for incentives for energy efficiency projects that involve lighting, HVAC, refrigeration and other similar projects has been extended to February 28, 2010.

“Part of the village’s community wide green initiative is called ‘Smart Business’,” explained Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. “ComEd’s program helps businesses improve the value they receive from their electric energy dollars and at the same time, save money and protect the environment,” he added.

ComEd provides up to a 30% incentive for a particular energy efficiency project. To make ComEd’s incentives more appealing, the Village of Orland Park modified its Commercial Façade Improvement Program to accommodate more energy efficiency incentives and projects. Orland Park’s Energy Efficiency Module and the Auto Mall Module target businesses in the community that want to complete the same types of projects that the ComEd incentives promote.

Orland Park Trustee Patricia Gira chairs the village’s Recreation, Parks and Green Initiatives Committee. Explaining the program, Gira said, “If a business applies for a ComEd prescriptive incentive and is approved by ComEd, they are then eligible for a village incentive through the Energy Efficiency Module or the Auto Mall Module that is up to 20% of the total cost of the project.”

McLaughlin added, “The combined incentive from ComEd and from the village could be up to 50% of the cost of the project.” “In short, if a local business is looking to replace aging, inefficient equipment or expanding their operation and need new

equipment, this may be a great opportunity to offset a significant part of those costs,” the mayor said

ComEd’s “Smart Ideas for Your Business” includes custom projects, which examine customized incentives that encourage customers to implement energy-efficiency measures. Prescriptive projects help with efficiency equipment upgrades and other improvements. Businesses are invited to explore the new construction facet that provides incentives that can support a facility expansion or new construction project. Other program areas include retro-commissioning, load response, small business and an all electric upgrade.

“We’ve been promoting ComEd’s program for businesses through the chamber of commerce and throughout the community,” explained Orland Park Planner Nectarios Pittos, who developed the village’s ECOMAP, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Municipal Action Plan.

In addition to Smart Business, Smart Living Orland Park includes Smart Neighborhoods, Smart Living, Smart Village and Smart Codes.

“Along with the financial incentives available for businesses, a major part of this program is the creation of jobs,” McLaughlin said. “Many of these projects would require specialized contractors, bringing jobs to the area,” he added.

“These funds are available for the business community to use before March, 2010,” McLaughlin said, adding that another \$250,000 in EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants [Program Home](#)) money is earmarked for the business community with \$50,000 being available for contractors to do energy efficient home improvement work. The remaining \$195,700 in EECBG money is for renewable energy efforts. Other Smart Business incentives in Orland Park include “Green Commercial Buildings and Green Homes.”

To qualify for ComEd’s “Smart Ideas For Your Business Program,” businesses must be a delivery service customer of ComEd with a valid account number. Electricity can be supplied by a retail electric supplier provided the electricity is delivered by ComEd. Qualifying businesses must be on an eligible ComEd non-residential rate. Customer eligibility is verified before any technical review or approval of projects is issued.

“Local businesses can take advantage of these programs and incentives and potentially realize a 50% subsidy on projects that will save them money,” Gira said.

“It’s a win-win situation,” McLaughlin added, “Businesses can receive financial help with their projects. They’re going to be saving energy and will be creating jobs in the Orland Park area to make these projects a reality.”

Further information is available on the Village of Orland Park’s green initiative website at www.smartlivingop.com or by calling Nectarios Pittos at the Village Hall at 708/403-5300.