

Rebates Offered from Pacific Gas and Electric

Question:

Ok, energy prices are rising but there is little to be done about it. Right?

Answer:

Well, you may need to invest in energy conserving equipment and facilities, but there are rebates that can help finance those purchases. The Pacific Gas and Electric Co., serving agricultural operations in the Pajaro Valley is offering a variety of rebates for business customers who purchase and install energy-efficient commercial equipment. New rebate incentives have just been added that might be useful for greenhouse operations too. Thinking of changing from sprinklers to drip, think energy rebate too.

The Express Efficiency rebate incentives for 2005 are for small and medium agricultural operations and composed of four programs—gas, refrigeration, lighting, and other technologies. Small and medium agricultural accounts with monthly demand of less than 500 kW or average monthly natural gas use of less than 20,800 therms can apply for this rebate. Larger energy consumers are encouraged to apply for the Standard Performance Contract (SPC).

Question:

What are these incentive programs?

Answer:

The most notable incentives for the *Express Efficiency Gas* program are for installing insulation on tanks and pipe in the heating distribution system of gas-fired boiler, greenhouse heat curtains, and infrared polyethylene film covers for existing greenhouses. *Express Efficiency Refrigeration* incentives provide rebates for replacing or retrofitting existing medium and low temperature refrigeration equipment. *Express Efficiency Lighting* incentives provide rebates for replacement and installation of energy efficient lighting fixtures, lamps and their components. *Express Efficiency HVAC/Food Service/Other Technologies* incentives at first look might not seem like it fits with agricultural operations, but look closer. Besides rebates for insulated hot food holding cabinets, there are rebates for converting sprinkler to drip irrigation and for low pressure sprinkler nozzles.

The Standard Performance Contract (SPC) offers cash incentive payments for projects involving replacement of existing equipment or systems with new, high-efficiency equipment or systems. The program is open to projects involving all commercial, industrial and agricultural customers, including those small and medium energy consumers that qualify for the incentives in the Express Efficiency incentives, described above. Payment amounts are determined by the quantity of savings resulting from installation of the new equipment or system.

More information on the Express Efficiency rebates can be obtained at www.pge.com/express and for the SPC rebates at http://www.pge.com/biz/rebates/spc_contracts/, or call PGE business representatives at 1-800-468-4743.