

**SOTIA/OLC ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER - NOVEMBER 14TH
CALL NOW FOR YOUR RESERVATION - DR. SESSIONS TO SPEAK**

SOTIA NEWS 'N NOTES

SOUTHERN OREGON TIMBER INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

2680 North Pacific Highway - Medford, Oregon 97501

(541) 773-5329

FAX (541) 773-1931

VOL VII - ISSUE X

NOVEMBER, 2003

NEW ENERGY PROGRAM OFFERS SERIOUS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO MANUFACTURERS

(The following article was written for SOTIA by Ross Finney of SOTIA Associate Member company RHT Energy Solutions.)

The Energy Trust of Oregon has introduced a new energy program available to manufacturing business customers of Pacific Power and PGE. With a \$500,000 maximum incentive for participating businesses, the **Production Efficiency program offers a heavy boost to the bottom line for timber industry manufacturing facilities located in southern Oregon.** The program targets projects that save kilowatt-hours of electricity, and numerous opportunities exist in forest products industry facilities including, but not limited to, air compression conveyers, and dust control systems.

Through the program, companies can take advantage of special financial incentives that either reduce a project payback period to 18 months, or reimburse the business for up to 50 percent of project costs, whichever is less. For example, if a company undertakes a pre-approved project that costs \$150,000, and the estimated annual energy savings is \$50,000 per year, it would normally take 3 years to recoup investment costs. However, **Production Efficiency** currently is buying down the cost of projects to equal their projected savings over an 18-month period. In this case, the new equipment would save the company \$75,000 in that time - and **Production Efficiency** would pay a \$75,000 cash incentive. **You save big twice - once up front on installation, and each year thereafter on reduced energy costs.** For a

limited time, the program is offering an “**early adopter**” **bonus** that adds an additional 4 cents for every kilowatt-hour of saving in a project. Finally, many projects are also eligible for Oregon Business Energy Tax Credits, which are calculated based on the project cost, prior to Energy Trust incentives.

Medford-based **RHT Energy Solutions** is the program delivery contractor assigned to administer program services here in southern Oregon. RHT owner, Buzz Thielemann, had over twenty-five years of experience with Pacific Power before he started the consulting business in 1998. RHT staff includes mechanical and electrical engineers to analyze energy use in manufacturing facilities, identify opportunities for energy savings, and recommend improvements that fit unique needs. RHT staff will oversee installation and verification of projects and complete all the paperwork necessary to ensure timely payment of program incentives, as well as Oregon Business Energy Tax Credits.

Contact **RHT Energy Solutions** by calling 541-770-5884 or e-mail them at info@rhtenergy.com for more information about how **Production Efficiency** can help you usher your business into a more profitable and energy-efficient future. RHT will assist you with the following services: Conducting scoping studies; developing specifications; evaluating contract bids; overseeing installation; and facilitating paperwork.

For more information about the **Energy Trust of Oregon** visit www.energytrust.org or call 1-877-510-6800.

**CALIFORNIA - A THREAT TO GLOBAL FORESTS - PAGE 2
REGIONAL HAZE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PAGE 3
GUESS WHO'S BACK? THE OLD 5% MYTH - PAGE 4**