

Press Release – July 25th

GOV. BLAGOJEVICH's MANUFACTURING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich today received national recognition for his innovative efforts in assisting manufacturers with reducing the cost of doing business in Illinois. The Governor's Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP) administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and partnered with Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Energy Efficiency Services was presented today with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Champion of Energy Efficiency Award. Gleason Cutting Tools in Loves Park, IL nominated DCEO and ComEd for the award after their participation in the program proved to be successful.

ACEEE recognizes leadership in industrial energy efficiency of state energy programs. In presenting the award Neal Elliot, ACEEE's Industrial Program Director, said *"the ACEEE board found the MEEP program to be truly compelling because of the innovative application of EnVINTA's One-2-Five tool that enhanced the impact of this important industrial energy efficiency program. We congratulate DCEO and ComEd, on the MEEP program for its leadership in industrial energy efficiency"*.

Over the last three years approximately 70 Illinois businesses have participated in the program, with average identified energy savings of 15-20%, equating to savings of \$17 million dollars.

The MEEP program assists large manufacturers in understanding and improving their energy management practices through a 1.5 – 2 hour diagnostic session utilizing EnVINTA's One-2-Five diagnostic process. The program's innovation stems from using a business approach to address energy management rather than the traditional technical audit approach. One-2-Five evaluates a business's existing business practices for energy, and provides the business with a pathway to continuous improvement. It is like a quality system for energy, using a similar structure to ISO9000, lean manufacturing and 6-sigma. It also benchmarks the organization's energy business practices against an international database of over 1700 firms that have used the process.

The MEEP program contains three phases, commencing with a One-2-Five Diagnostic Session, then following with an energy management action plan and finishing with a technical assessment. DCEO funds the initial diagnostic also provides 50% rebates, up to \$10,000, for both the Action Plan development and Technical Assessment.

Benefits to Illinois businesses include:

- Helps businesses to reduce the cost of doing business in Illinois;
- Provides a path way to best practices using the One-2-Five strategic planning;
- Benchmarks Illinois business against an international database of peers;
- Rapid and easy incorporation of energy management into the site's business model;
- Tailoring outcomes to the business's NAICS manufacturing segment;
- Financial assistance from DCEO to move from "ideas" to implementation.

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