

SEDAC wins DOE Building Technologies Office Award

We're proud to announce that SEDAC won a Department of Energy Building Technologies Office award to pursue innovations that can enhance the affordability and effectiveness of energy-savings measures.

We were one of 19 organizations selected for projects related to Advanced Technology Integration. Working with State Energy Offices, we will equip community college instructors to educate the next-generation workforce on the latest building energy technologies and related industry standards. [Read more.](#)



We're excited to pursue this project and look forward to connecting with you about educating the energy efficiency workforce!

Energy Code Training Opportunities

Workshops. Attend our workshop, "Top 40 Requirements you should know, 2018 IECC" offered on the following dates:

- March 5, 2020 from 9 am-12 pm in Mattoon, IL
- March 24, 2020 from 1-4 pm in Rockford, IL

Find out more and register [here](#). As always, International Code Council (ICC) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) continuing education credits are available.



Webinars. Thanks to all the participants who made our January 29th webinar, "Top 10 Commercial HVAC Requirement You Should Know" our biggest yet! If you missed it, you can access the webinar (and other past presentations) [here](#).



Online Courses. Are you new to COMcheck and REScheck, the Department of Energy's code compliance tools? In this short video clip, SEDAC's Shawn Maurer explains how to enter information about a new construction project in COMcheck's project tab.

Learn more about COMcheck and REScheck in our free [online courses](#). These courses include video clips and helpful advice about using these important tools.

Participants who take one of our online

courses can earn AIA and ICC continuing education credits.

Illinois Chief Engineers & Facility Managers Conference

Save the date: April 14-15, 2020

Attend the Chief Engineers and Facility Managers annual training conference in Champaign, IL to learn about the latest technologies and applications used in the efficient and sustainable operation of buildings.



This affordable conference features high-quality educational sessions and interactive discussions. Public and private sector chief engineers, facility managers and other key operations/maintenance staff are invited to attend.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Growing the Energy Efficiency Workforce

Part 2: What's in a name?

At SEDAC, we are committed to reducing the energy footprint of the State of Illinois by helping to grow the energy efficiency workforce.

Lack of Awareness of energy efficiency jobs is a huge barrier to getting diverse and qualified candidates. Many people haven't heard of energy efficiency jobs, while others may not find "energy efficiency" inherently appealing. Even those who provide energy efficiency services might not consider themselves part of the energy efficiency workforce; perhaps energy efficiency services are only a small part of what they provide.



Does energy efficiency need a rebranding?

How do you identify your role in our industry? Do you consider yourself an energy efficiency worker? Or do you describe what you do differently? What words should the

energy efficiency industry use to raise awareness and to inspire young people to join us? There may be other terms that better describe what we do and why it's important.

In our second "Growing the Energy Efficiency Workforce" post, we compare and contrast alternative terms (green jobs, building performance, craft professionals, etc.) and explain how you can use them to your advantage in recruitment efforts.

[Read the full post.](#)

Contact us if you'd like to join the conversation about how we can grow the energy efficiency workforce: 800.214.7954 or info@sedac.org.

Wastewater Treatment: Natural Algae Control

As spring approaches, many lagoon operators are considering strategies for summer algae control. In one recent site visit, our client shared an innovative and eco-friendly approach. He uses barley straw to prevent the growth of algae on his lagoon! The straw has effectively replaced the copper sulfate he previously used, is low cost and non-toxic.



While studies have shown barley straw to effectively inhibit the growth of algae in wastewater systems ([Zhou 2010](#)), other types of straw have not been nearly as successful. According to the Penn State Extension, "It seems that barley straw, when exposed to sunlight and in the presence of oxygen, produces a chemical that inhibits algae growth" ([PennState](#)).

Because barley straw *prevents* algae growth, rather than killing existing algae, it should be applied in early spring before the plants have a chance to establish themselves. Check with your local extension office or farm supply for sources of barley straw and application recommendations.

Save energy and money with SEDAC!

Want to see what energy savings you can uncover at your wastewater facility? For a limited time, no-cost energy assessments (valued at up to \$12,000) are available! Learn more and apply [here](#).

We are participating in a few wastewater professionals conferences this spring. Come see us at our booth to learn about energy saving opportunities!

- 3/24-3/26: [WaterCon](#), Springfield
- 4/20-4/22: [Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference](#), Springfield--Join our speaking session at this event!

Notes from the Field

What's your roof trying to tell you?

On a recent frosty morning, we enjoyed a low tech visual demonstration of thermodynamics while biking to the SEDAC office. Some shingles were frosty, indicating

a cold surface while others were clean and dry indicating escaping heat and wasted energy.

In the top image, the overhanging eaves (flanked by unconditioned air on both sides) stand out in sharp contrast to the part of the roof adjacent to interior space. This indicates inadequate insulation under the roof deck; heat is escaping from the attic to melt the frost on the roof.



In the bottom image, the roof framing is visible indicating the presence of insulation between the framing members but no continuous insulation across them. Thermal bridging is evident; the wood framing has a lower R-value (higher heat conductance) than the insulation between and carries more heat out of the conditioned space.

SEDAC Smart Tip: Be observant! You don't always need infrared cameras or blower door tests to spot the telltale signs of wasted energy.

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Providing effective energy efficiency strategies for buildings and communities

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