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Idaho Power incentives help pay for Boise Library's energy-efficient upgrades

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Boise Public Library on Wednesday received an Idaho Power incentive check of \$66,992.16 for energy-efficient upgrades to the Main Library lighting system.

The incentive was awarded as part of Idaho Power's Easy Upgrades program.

"These energy-efficiency upgrades will save taxpayer dollars and serve as an example for how local businesses can reduce their energy consumption by investing in energy-saving retrofits," Boise Mayor David Bieter said in a statement.

Government buildings staff from the city's Public Works Department started the project in June and completed it in September, with most work done during hours that the library was closed.

With the new lighting system in place, the Library expects to save \$32,000 annually on energy costs at today's rates, and to reduce electrical usage by approximately 575,000 kilowatt hours per year.

Total costs for the project are estimated to be around \$95,703; the Library expects the project to pay for itself before the end of calendar year 2011.

Idaho Power's Easy Upgrades program offers incentives of up to \$100,000 per year for simple energy-saving retrofits to existing commercial buildings. Eligible projects include lighting, air conditioning, refrigeration and other building electrical systems.

To learn more about the Easy Upgrades program, visit www.idahopower.com and click on Energy Efficiency, then on Business.

To learn more about Boise Public Library, visit www.boisepubliclibrary.org or call 384-4076.