

# Austin and San Antonio Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers

September 2006



Volume 1, Issue 8

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## ENERGY INDEX

- Air Quality 2006:  
Energy Leadership & Emissions Reduction-  
workshops, conference, exhibits  
hosted by  
TAMU Energy Systems Laboratory  
Houston, Texas  
October 10–13, 2006  
  
<http://airquality2006.tamu.edu>
- Texas Energy Smart School Conference  
hosted by  
Solar San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas  
October 6, 2006  
  
[www.solarsanantonio.org](http://www.solarsanantonio.org)
- The Energy Manager's Update  
presented by:  
North Texas Association of Energy Engineers  
Holiday Inn Select North Dallas  
2645 LBJ Freeway  
Dallas, Texas  
September 28, 2006

## A Note From The President



Greetings fellow AEE chapter members and supporters! It was wonderful to get relief from the drought and the seemingly never ending 100 degree days. We received over three inches of rain at my house the other day and it was 58 degrees this morning. Oh, what a relief it is!

I just returned from attending the Engineering Green Buildings Conference and Expo, near Bastrop Texas. The conference was exceptional with an incredible amount of useful information. The keynote address was a call to action for the engineering community to be ready when architects and owners demand greater energy efficiency and renewable energy for commercial buildings. Please check out the AIA's 2030 Challenge at [www.architecture2030.org](http://www.architecture2030.org)

The goal of the conference was twofold. First, was to provide the mechanical systems engineering com-

munity with knowledge, skills and technology to meet the challenges of green-building best practices and LEED certification. Secondly, was to provide a forum through which suppliers could communicate the green attributes and applications of their services, products and technology. I believe the goals were met and highly recommend future Engineering Green Building Conferences.

Our chapter visited WideLite at their new location in San Marcos last month. The conference/presentation room is very impressive, with all the bells and whistles. The presentation on Electronic HID Ballast and Dark Skies was informative and entertaining. The Rudy's Bar-B-

Que lunch WideLite provided was delicious. I would like to thank WideLite for their hospitality. I especially want to thank Dennis Mercer for his assistance in coordinating the event and of course Ken Willfong of WideLite.

I am looking forward to the presentation next Tuesday on "Load Profiling", presented by Energy Interactive. Please see more information in the newsletter and or online.

As always I thank our AEE members and supporters for all that you do to make a positive difference. If you are not a AEE member please consider becoming one. The challenge to become more energy efficient is growing very fast. Together we can meet the challenge.

See you in San Marcos.

Frank Thomas, CEM

Chapter President

[frankthomas@nisd.net](mailto:frankthomas@nisd.net)



## September Technology



For our September meeting, Mr. Brian Kingman of Schneider Electric will do a presentation on the Energy Profiler Online product and related technologies.

### Energy Profiler Online

Customer usage data forms the informational bedrock of any utility's operations. In regulated and restructured markets alike, IT advances have taken load data from a research curiosity to a value-added commodity available to a wide range of users. In reality, however, it is not the data itself but what one is able to do with it that matters. Today, any utility can post customer usage data on the Internet. Whether that data is useful to customers is another matter.

Energy Profiler Online (EPO) is the industry's leading load data visualization and analysis application. The service takes the volumes of customer usage data utilities collect every day and turns it into actionable information that is readily accessible to both customers and internal users.

### The Value of Information

For commercial and industrial energy customers, managing energy costs is the primary objective, but they can't control what they can't measure. EPO enables energy customers to take control of their costs by providing the information they need to understand how their organization uses energy.

Armed with that understanding, they can then take steps to reduce costs through implementing conservation measures, investing in more efficient equipment, or participating in new pricing or load curtailment programs.

For the utility, EPO provides an intuitive, easy-to-maintain tool for better understanding customer usage patterns and meeting customers' growing need for information. It also provides a convenient platform from which to administer real-time pricing (RTP) or load curtailment programs.

### Features

EPO provides a wide range of functionality that serves the needs of customers and utility staff from the same platform.

*Data Access and Analysis* - view and analyze data in

*Historical and Estimated Bills* - view previous bills and generate estimates based on existing data, even before the billing period ends.

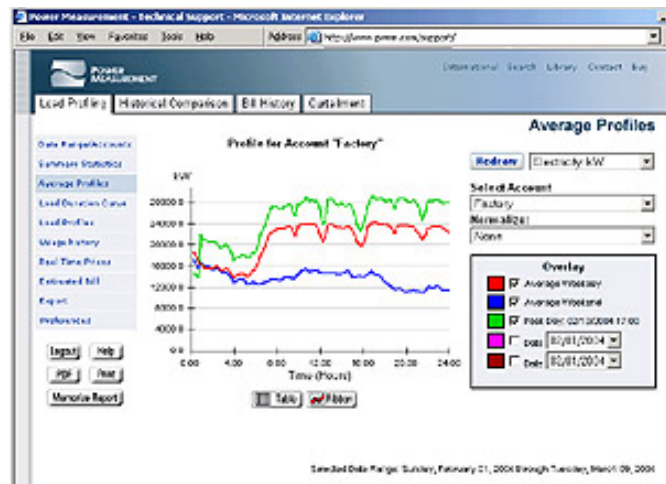
*Rate Comparison* - explore the effects of rate changes for specific customers, based on their unique usage characteristics.

*What-if Analysis* - explore cost scenarios by assessing the impact of various changes to operations, such as shifting energy between time periods or reducing usage by fixed amounts or percentages.

*Automated Alarming* - set usage parameters to automatically notify customers when their consumption exceeds a given threshold.

*Memorized Reports* - save customized reports and schedule their automatic delivery to colleagues via email.

***"For commercial and industrial energy customers, managing energy costs is the primary objective"***



both graphical and tabular formats.

(Continued on page 3)

## September Technology

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**Benchmarking** - benchmark usage data from multiple facilities by applying normalization factors such as square footage, operating hours and units of production.

**Multiple Commodities** - access usage data for gas and water as well as electricity.

**RTP Programs** - administer real-time pricing and other programs that rely on customers' access to usage data (e.g., load curtailment).

**Administration Tool** - manage user accounts, access privileges and more from a convenient and intuitive Web interface.

EPO makes it easy for utilities to leverage the power of the Internet to deliver value-added services to their commercial and industrial customers.

Energy customers across North America use the service every day to monitor usage, evaluate the effectiveness of energy-saving programs, establish benchmarks for usage performance, gain a better understanding of how their entire organization uses energy, and more.

### **Why Offer Online Service with EPO?**

Reasons for implementing EPO are varied as the utilities that offer them. However, as technology improves and such services become increasingly affordable and relevant for utilities and their customers, the case for deploying them becomes more and more compelling.

**A New Source of Revenue** - even a modest per-meter fee can quickly add up to a significant revenue stream for companies that offer EPO to their cus-

tomers.

**Increased Customer Satisfaction** - the ready availability of timely, actionable information has been proven to increase customer satisfaction levels.

**A Value-Added Service** - EPO represents a low-cost, easy-to-implement way to expand offerings beyond basic commodity supply.

**Meet Competitive Pressures** - as the underlying technologies become more affordable and widespread, energy information services are becoming the norm as opposed to the exception.

**Meet Regulatory Requirements** - whether to support new pricing schemes, demand-response programs or requirements for customer access to usage data, many regions now mandate that utilities have some form of online energy information system.

## October Field Trip

Make plans to join us on a tour of CPS Energy's JK Spruce generation plant on October 24th. The plant is part of the Calavaras Lake Operation which currently contains two generation plants as well as state of the art baghouse for environmental control of emissions. A third coal fired plant, Spruce 2 will be online by 2010. The tour features all of the technology firsthand that goes into a coal fired power generation plant as well as a breath taking view of Calavaras

Lake from 80 feet above the ground and the spectacle of a fully loaded coal car being turned upside and emptied without being disconnected from adjoining cars!

Due to the nature of the tour, the total number allowed to participate will be



30. Tour attendees will be walking on open grating, be exposed to hot environment, ride an elevator, and be **required** to wear hard hat and safety glasses. Participants are advised that if they are afraid of heights, elevators, safety glasses, or hardhats they should not make plans to attend the tour.

Look for sign up information early next month and more details of the tour in next months newsletter.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CPS ENERGY AT

<http://www.cpsenergy.com>

## Presentations/Field Trips 2006

The following speakers, presentations, and field trips are scheduled for upcoming meetings:

September: Energy Interactive--Load Profiling

October: CPS Energy Coal Plant Tour

November: Infrared Imaging Solutions

December: End of Year Luncheon/Program

Do you have any ideas for future topics, speakers, or field trips? Please contact Bob Spiegel [Rspiegel@ieee.org](mailto:Rspiegel@ieee.org) or Linda Rickard [Linda.rickard@austinenergy.com](mailto:Linda.rickard@austinenergy.com)

### Understanding Engineers...Take Five

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After servicing his company loyally for more than 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later, the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multimillion-dollar machines.



They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer responded to their plea, "Oh???" and reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated, "This is where your problem is."

The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer replied: "One chalk mark: \$1; knowing where to put it: \$49,999."

It was paid in full and the engineer retired again in peace.

Newsletter Comments? Contact Bruce Dschuden at [brucedschuden@nisd.net](mailto:brucedschuden@nisd.net)



## 2006 Officers

Frank Thomas	President	<i>frankthomas@nisd.net</i>
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### Our Mission:

- ◆ Advance the professional careers and the common purposes of its members. Facilitate networking, social exchange and training.
- ◆ Present and discuss energy, environmental topics, and members' ideas. Stay abreast of fast changing developments. Anticipate their future.
- ◆ Disseminate information to the trade and to the general public via meetings, publications, trade shows and presentations.
- ◆ Build an exciting, expanding chapter
- ◆ Cooperate with other AEE chapters and related organizations.
- ◆ Promote energy efficiency.
- ◆ Promote renewable resources

### September Chapter Meeting

September 26, 2006

"Energy Profiler Online"

Logan's Roadhouse – San Marcos, TX

11:00am Garage Room

512.805.8888

*See Web Site for Map*





Austin/San Antonio Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers

<http://www.txaee.org>

**Local Chapter Dues for 2006: \$ 20.00**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Speaker Topic or Tour: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chapter meetings typically are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Location for the meetings is posted on the Austin/San Antonio AEE Web Site <http://www.txaee.org/calendar.htm>. Look forward to informative, professional, and educational presentations in the energy field, plus field trips to various locations in Austin and San Antonio.*

*For inquiries regarding this invoice please contact Isidro Rodriquez at 512-322-6333 or [isidro.rodriquez@austinenergy.com](mailto:isidro.rodriquez@austinenergy.com)*

**Remit to:** Austin AEE, PMB 287, 815-A Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701-2509

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