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Energy Efficiency Program Sponsor Teaming Profile

Energy Efficiency Program Sponsor Partner

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ComEd and Calico Energy Services partner to provide comprehensive energy data for hundreds of commercial buildings

Project Summary

ComEd, the electric utility in Chicago and Northern Illinois serving more than 350,000 businesses, partnered with Calico Energy Services to implement a software solution that reduces the complexity and administrative burden of collecting, validating, and submitting whole-building, multi-tenant energy usage data to the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. Using this data for benchmarking helps building managers understand energy consumption compared to other similar buildings, set investment priorities, track and verify progress of improvement projects, and work towards earning the ENERGY STAR Label. Data can also be downloaded for other energy management purposes.

- **Scope**

Develop a software solution to simplify the process of collecting monthly energy usage data at the building level, and to provide additional functionality that connects back-end utility data systems with EPA's Portfolio Manager to supply the energy usage information required for benchmarking.

- **Deliverables**

ComEd and Calico Energy Services modeled, designed, tested, and deployed the *Energy Usage Data System (EUDS)* in 2008. EUDS eliminated the administrative burden for ComEd of gathering whole building energy usage data manually to meet customer requests. The system also greatly simplified the process for building managers, making it possible for them to request data online, as well as configure and automate data submission to Portfolio Manager. Since initial deployment in 2008, the system has been upgraded to support improvements in Portfolio Manager, and remains in continuous operation today.

- **Implementation Considerations**

EUDS leverages enterprise-class data security systems and data aggregation so customers can have complete confidence in the calculation, storage, and privacy of their data. Since the solution is maintained by Calico, any technical updates to Portfolio Manager are transparent to ComEd and its customers, thus ensuring accurate and successful monthly data updates.

- **Results**

The ComEd EUDS tool has enabled building managers to obtain comprehensive energy data for more than 1,400 buildings (as of July 2010). These buildings account for an estimated total of more than 300 million square feet of commercial floor space, including hospitals, hotels, medical office buildings, waste water treatment plants, courthouses, financial centers, warehouses, schools, and others.

ComEd and Calico demonstrated an important approach for increasing customer access to whole-building energy data, thereby expanding the set of options for program sponsors to consider when investing in this area. EUDS helps building managers take full advantage of ENERGY STAR to benchmark their buildings' energy performance, as well as develop and monitor energy-saving strategies. An off-the shelf version of EUDS, called *Green Certification*, is now available from Calico Energy Services for program sponsors, and building owners and managers nationwide.