

Watts CURRENT

Renewable Energy Tax Credit available January 1, 2006

The State of South Dakota has renewable energy tax credit on the property tax. Congress pass a new energy that does offer a tax credit if you qualify. The purchase or improvement can not be done until January 1, 2006.

Just a word on South Dakota's property tax exemption. If you buy a qualifying renewable energy system, you get a credit on your property valuation, not your property taxes. So, if your house is assessed at \$100,000 and the credit is \$3,000, then you will pay taxes on \$97,000 of value. In most situations, the credit applies for 3 years, and then partially applies for the next three years.

Links to renewable energy web sites

Link for your review <http://www.aceee.org/energy/legsttus.htm> and a copy of summary http://aceee.org/press/Tax_incentive05.pdf

Here is a link to the form for the credit. You might want to touch base with your county auditor to ensure whatever you buy will qualify for the credit.

<https://www.state.sd.us/eforms/secure/eforms/E1298V1-ClaimForPropertyTaxCreditOnRenewableResourceEnergySystem.pdf>

Here is a link to the relevant statutes. They are SDCL 10-6-35.8 - 10-6-35.20.

<http://legis.state.sd.us/statutes/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=10-6>

2006 Annual Conference

Hosted by the Brookings-Watertown Chapter

April 21-22, 2006

Watertown Event Center, Watertown, SD

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Ray Kub, P.E.

Raymond Kub is the President of the South Dakota Electrical Council (SDEC) Board of Directors. He has served on the SDEC Board of Directors since 1999.

He is a registered Professional Engineer licensed in South Dakota and is a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He retired as the Billings Area Regional Communications Engineer for the U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration in 2004. His career with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Western Area Power Administration spanned over 35 years. The majority of the career was spent in communications engineering and management positions and he was the Bismarck District Manager from 1992 to 1997.

In 1969, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He spent 28 years on active duty and reserve assignments, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the Command and General Staff College.

Presently, he and his wife, Candis, operate a diversified livestock farm in Edmunds County. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and holds an Extra Class amateur radio license.

Welcome to the Board

Craig Anderson

Mark Joffer

SDEC Advertising Rate Sheet

The "Watts Current" is a semi-annual (8 1/2 x 11) publication that is mailed to our membership, and advertisers. The current mailing list exceeds 800 people. We mail the publication in March and September. Ads and articles are due to our office by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$325.00/year
Approximately 7 1/2 x 9 1/2	\$200/issue
One-half Page	\$140/year
Approximately 5 x 7 1/2 or 3 1/2 x 9 1/2	\$75/issue
One-quarter Page	\$90/year
Approximately 3 1/2 x 9 1/2	\$50/issue
Eighth Page	\$50/year
Approximately 3 1/2 x 2 1/4	\$35/issue

For more information contact:

SDEC • Kelli Fuhrmann, Council Administrator
 PO Box 388 • Fort Pierre, SD 57532 • (888) 299-1675 or (605) 945-1675
 sdec@iw.net
 www.sdec.org

Current Board Members



Left to Right Front Row - Brad Scott, Mike Sprang, Jeff Stone, Ray Kub, Kevin Kouba
 Left to Right Back Row - Marty Larson, Roger Larson, Ron Nagle, Troy Swift, Mike Miller, Mark Joffer, Craig Anderson
 Not pictured: Carl Maas and Tom Nelson.

Upcoming Board Meetings

**January 19, 2006
 Watertown, SD**

**April 20, 2006
 Watertown, SD**

Board of Directors

Ray Kub President
 Mike Miller Vice-President
 Kelli Fuhrmann Council Administrator

Board Members

Craig Anderson
 Steven Hietpas
 Mark W. Joffer
 Kevin Kouba
 Marty Larsen
 Roger Larson
 Carl Maas
 Ron Nagle
 Tom Nelson
 Brad Scott
 Mike Sprang
 Jeff Stone
 Troy Swift

SUPPORT IN THE PAST
 STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE



**South Dakota
 Electrical Council**
 www.sdec.org

Chapter News

Black Hills

The Black Hills Chapter's annual Golf Outing was held at the Rapid City Elk's Club in July. The dynamic duo of Jerry Freeman and Jeff Stone were tournament winners.

At the September meeting, Rapid City building inspectors Jeff Larus, Bernie Hall and Mark Brodrick discussed electrical code changes. This included a review of the 2005 NEC, changes to the Wiring Bulletin of South Dakota, and proposed changes to the local mechanical code that could affect electrical installations. Over 100 members were in attendance at this meeting.

Huron

The Huron Chapter will have their meeting in the third week of October continually thru April. Pizza and refreshments at 6:30 pm and meeting to start at 7:00 pm. The meetings are held at Northwestern Energy Operation Center.

Videos for Sale
NEC Expert 2002
One Set of 5 — \$200.00

2006 Membership Dues
will be invoiced in November

Support Your Local Chapter of SDEC

Black Hills Chapter

Contact — President Rich Larsen — 605-348-5104
email blackhills@sdec.org

Brookings/Watertown Area Chapter

Contact — President Josh Peterson
605-693-6311
email waterbrook@sdec.org

Hub Area Chapter

Contact — (605) 426-6510 ask for Tony Simon
email hub@sdec.org

Huron Area Chapter

Contact — President Carl Maas - 605-352-8411
email huron@sdec.org

Oahe Chapter

Contact — President Shawn Williams
(605) 280-6085
email oahe@sdec.org

Sioux Chapter

Contact — President Lowell Behrens
605-428-6087
email sioux@sdec.org

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COUNCIL 2006 Person of the Year Requirements

The person must have been active in the electric industry for a period of at least fifteen (15) years.

The person must be recognized as an authority in his segment of the electric industry in South Dakota.

The person must be recognized for his/her sincerity, willingness, tactfulness, sobriety in connection with his/her approach to the advancement of the electric industry, and for having devoted time and energy above and beyond that of the normal course of his/her work.

He/She must have made contributions to the practice of electric education, safety, generation transmission or utilization within the State of South Dakota.

He/She must be recognized as one who over the years has also made significant contributions outside of those within the industry and one who has been active in the general public interest.

One other consideration should be to someone with fewer years in the electrical business but who has done outstanding work in promoting electricity. (Amended – December 16, 1966)

An effort shall be made to award this achievement to the person in the proximity of the annual conclave. (Amended – December 7, 1987)

The president of the SDEC shall present an award, to the achievement winner along with a lifetime membership to the SDEC. (Amended – April 7, 1987)

Nomination form is available @ www.sdec.org.

Send 2006 nominations to: Mike Sprang, 3008 Greenwood Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

2005 Convention — Thank You's

Door Prizes

Black Hills Chapter of SDEC
 Brookings/Watertown Chapter of SDEC
 Hub Chapter of SDEC
 Huron Chapter of SDEC
 Oahe Chapter of SDEC
 Sioux Chapter of SDEC
 American Midwest Power
 Butler Machinery Company
 Dakota Supply Group
 Electro Tech
 Gaynor & Associates
 Graybar Electric
 Holophane Lighting Company
 Interstate Power Systems
 MRL Company
 Volco Company

Exhibitors

American Midwest Power
 Andrews Johnson Brausacoram
 Bonthius Electrical Sales
 Butler Machinery Company

Ditch Witch of SD Inc.
 Dynamic Technical Building Systems
 ECS-Electric Component Sales, Inc.
 Elstad Associates, Inc.
 Enlow Companies, Inc.
 Erico Inc.
 Gaynor & Associates
 GE Industrial Lighting Systems
 Grissinger-Johnson Sales
 Holophane Lighting Company
 Interstate Power Systems
 Lee Noonan Company
 Lesco, Inc.
 Luma Sales Associates
 MRL Company
 North Central Sales
 Optical Cable Corporation
 Petersen-Finn Inc.
 Pioneer Electrical Sales
 Rouzer Sales
 Siemens Energy & Automation
 Stellar Energy Services, Inc.
 Sylvania

SymCom Inc.
 The Rennebohm Company
 Volco Company

Conference Committee

Lowell Behrens
 James Mergen
 Mike Fisher
 Mike Sprang
 Melanie Raap
 Larry Kippes
 Shane Kerska
 Craig Larson
 Gary Lien
 Cheryl Wheeler
 Duane Mergen
 Rhonda Behrens
 Cheri Mergen
 Lori Kippes

2005 Convention — Person of the Year

James "Jim" Mergen was born at Chester, SD. He joined two brothers and five sisters. Jim lived with his parents, Arthur and Cecelia, and brothers and sisters on a farm north of Dell Rapids, SD until he left for the army.

Jim attended the first eight years of school at a country school called DeVaney School. He attended high school at St. Mary's in Dell Rapids, SD. After graduating from high school in 1960, Jim entered the National Guard and spent six months in training. His National Guard unit was called to active duty in the summer of 1961 to serve during the Berlin and Cuban crises. He was released from duty the fall of 1962. Jim re-entered the 5043rd Army Reserve in 1975. He served in that unit as a Supply Sergeant until retirement in 1996.

Jim began his employment in the spring of 1963 as an Apprentice Lineman for Sioux Valley Electric in Colman, SD. In 1967 he took a job in northern Minnesota as a Transmission Lineman. Jim started working for the city of Sioux Falls Electrical Department in March 1971 as a Lineman. He was appointed Line Supervisor in 1977 and Electrical Superintendent in 1995. Jim retired from his position with the city of Sioux Falls in October 2003.

Jim has served on various committees and boards during his forty years of employment. He served on the South Dakota Electrical Council Board (SDEC)



James R. Mergen

for seven years; SDEC Sioux Chapter, 30 years; Joint Utility Training School, 20 years (JUTS); and South Dakota Municipal Electrical Association, 30 years (SDMEA). As chairman, Jim organized the Safety Committee for SDMEA. He served as Co-Chair for the 2005 SDEC Annual Conference and he is treasurer of the Sioux Chapter.

Jim has been a member of the Elks, American Legion, APWA, APPA, and St. Therese Church in Sioux Falls for thirty years. When the army asked for a volunteer to coordinate a Family Outreach Program, Jim accepted the position along with his wife, Cheri. The program organizes activities and various functions for the families of the U.S. Army Reserve. He served the Family Outreach for fifteen years. Jim was nominated Army Reservist of the Year in 1992.

In between all the organizations and committee service, Jim always has time to go fishing with his two sons and friends on the Missouri River. If the fish are not biting, he enjoys walking a cornfield with his dog looking for ringnecked pheasants.

Jim and his wife Cheri live in Sioux Falls, SD. They have two sons, Todd and Troy. Todd and his wife Heather live in Sioux Falls where Todd is a civil engineer at HDR Engineering. Troy and his wife Marianne live in Brookings, SD where Troy is a senior at SDSU majoring in electrical engineering.

2005 NEC Code Classes

“Continuing Education is Your Best Investment in the Future”



Arne Electro-Tech Seminars

P.O. Box 2272 Rapid City, SD 57709-2272
 (605) 342-9088 Fax: (605) 342-9087
 Website: www.ElectricalMaster.com
1-888-603-5050 toll free
 Email: steve@electricalmaster.com

The Instructor: **Steve Arne** is an experienced Electrician, Licensed Inspector and Certified Technical Educator with over 20 years of electrical teaching experience. Steve is the Technical Editorial Director for Mike Holt Enterprises.

2005 Code Update Classes

NEC Update (Code Changes with Grounding vs. Bonding emphasis)

Approved for 16 hours of Code in SD & WY and also accepted in other states

Chamberlain, SD	Chamberlain, Cedar Shore	Jan. 13 - 14, 2006	Code Update
Rapid City, SD	Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn	Feb 10 - 11, 2006	Code Update
Sioux Falls, SD	City Centre Holiday Inn	Feb 24 -25, 2006	Code Update
Chamberlain, SD	Chamberlain, Cedar Shore	Mar 24 - 25, 2006	Code Update

Hours: 7:40 AM registration, 8 AM class: **PLEASE REGISTER at AETech.com or PHONE 888-603-5050**
Cost: **185.00 for 16 hours / \$120.00 for 8 hours Includes Mike Holt Code Changes book**
Discount: Advance Registration, paid 30 days before class: **\$170.00 for 16 hours / \$110.00 for 8 hours**
Price includes Mike Holt Code Changes book and most classes include lunch
 Code classes are available for your company at your site. Call us for details.

You Can Pass Your Electrical Exam!

2005 NEC Electrical Code Calculations for Exam Prep

Complete your continuing education requirements while you study for a licensing exam!

Approved for 16 hours of Code in SD & WY and also accepted in other states

Rapid City, SD	Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn	Dec 9 - 10, 2005	Exam Prep
Rapid City, SD	Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn	Jan 6 - 7, 2006	Exam Prep
Sioux Falls, SD	City Centre Holiday Inn	Mar 10 - 11, 2006	Exam Prep

Hours: 7:40 AM registration, 8 AM class: **PLEASE REGISTER at AETech.com or PHONE 888-603-5050**
Cost: **\$350.00 16 hours** Including Mike Holt's Exam Prep book (required): **\$295.00** without book
Discount: Advance Registration, paid 30 days before class date: **\$330.00** with book, **\$275.00** without book

Exam Prep Guarantee: If you do not pass your electrical exam after taking this class, you can retake it for half price!

Check our website for additional dates and locations

Visa- Master Card- Discover/ Novus- American Express

All classes are subject to enrollment limits and enrollment minimums.
 (all prices, dates, and locations are tentative and are subject to change)



“In God We Trust”

Visit our Web site at: <http://www.aetech.com>
 Electrician Books and Training Videos can be Ordered Online!



Calendar of Events

January 1, 2006

Dues year begins

January 19, 2006

Board Meeting
Watertown Event Center, Watertown

April 21-22, 2006

Annual Conference
Hosted by the Brookings-Watertown Chapter
Watertown Event Center, Watertown

Website:
www.sdec.org

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Mission Statement

Founded on December 3, 1952, the South Dakota Electrical Council's purpose is to promote and improve the electrical industry within South Dakota. The council strives to promote technical and product knowledge, continuing education, and better communication among its members through trade shows, joint utility training, newsletters, awards and individual chapters of the South Dakota Electrical Council. The SDEC and its membership are committed to building cooperation, fostering goodwill, and developing pride among all segments of the electrical industry.

Serving South Dakota's Electrical Industry

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