Energy Star Opportunity
for members of the
Greater Omaha Chamber

What is Energy Star?

- Energy Star is an energy efficiency program created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE).
- The program creates international standards for energy efficient consumer products such as appliances, computers, lighting, heating and cooling systems, etc. The program also has an energy efficiency rating system for commercial sized buildings and facilities.

How does the rating system work?

- The rating system for buildings is based on a 1 – 100 scale. A building with a score of 75 or greater qualifies for an ENERGY STAR certification.
- To find your score, you use the online Portfolio Manager. Building owners or employees can track and assess energy and water usage for one’s building or one’s entire portfolio of buildings.
- The online tool is secure and allows you to benchmark energy usage for a variety of building types (schools, office buildings, industrial facilities, small businesses, etc.).

Creighton students using Energy Star for Omaha businesses

- The Creighton Energy Science program will be offering a course teaching students about Energy Star. As an exercise, students could work with Omaha businesses interested in setting up an Energy Star account.
- Students will obtain utility statements from the business and upload the information into the Portfolio Manager. This could be mutually beneficial for the business and the students.
Businesses will receive a functional Energy Star account which they can use to lower utility costs. Often, the most extensive part of setting up Energy Star is getting years worth of past utility statements. Upkeep on the manager requires much less work because only the most recent utility statement is required.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about energy in the built environment and how to use important tools. This helps prepare our Energy students for entering a professional world with respectable experience in energy rating systems.

Additional details related to this opportunity:

- No cost to the business
- All information kept confidential
- Creighton students taking ERG581 & ERG 582 “Senior Projects in Energy Studies”
- Project #7 – 3 weeks in March, 2015
- Students would set up account, enter data, provide a formal presentation to the company & leave training material for the company’s ongoing use of their Energy Star account
- A part of this project for the students is the development of professional interaction with the real world. This project is not intended to be a burden on the company.
- Due to the brevity of time available, the focus is small & mid-size businesses.
- Would envision companies signing up for the service with perhaps five companies (or more depending on class size) selected each year
- Questions or comments directed to : Larry Hopp, Director of Creighton’s Energy Technology Program, larryhopp@creighton.edu, 402-659-8693.