

GRITS Update: Energy Projects are Saving Money and Reducing Carbon Output

We have publicized the fact—

in recent issues of *Facilities Manager* and *Inside APPA*, as well as on the APPA website—that APPA and the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) have launched a partnership that provides all APPA members with free access to the SEI's **Green Revolving Investment Tracking System**. Since the October 19, 2015 announcement, more than 180 institutions have signed on to use the GRITS tool, for a total financial savings to date of more than \$66 million.

GRITS is a project-management Web tool that allows users to track and analyze the energy, financial, and carbon savings data from their energy- and resource-efficiency projects, as well as access a library of more than 1,400 projects completed by other GRITS users across the U.S. and Canada.

With this free version open only to APPA member institutions, users can:

- Access the GRITS Dashboard, which shows a snapshot of your project portfolio's energy, financial, and carbon savings
- Access the Project Details page to track project-specific details, including project type, cost, relevant transactions, performance, and measurement and verification
- Utilize the Project Overview feature to see all projects you have entered that have been completed, current, or proposed for the future
- View a limited version of the GRITS Project Library, which allows for filtering through projects from other institutions by project type, project cost, payback period, region, and more
- Track up to 20 projects and create two user accounts

Following are some of the preliminary findings gathered from data submitted by APPA members as of the first week of March.

- 182 total GRITS sign-ons (34 are from the 2015 pilot program)
- 815 completed projects entered (for which there is complete data)
- Total-to-date financial savings: \$66,013,574
- Total-to-date energy savings: 1,663,257 MMBTU
- Total-to-date emissions savings: 179,589 metric tons CO₂e
- Total project investment: \$59,641,514
- Average annual financial savings: \$15,336
- Average payback period: 4.6 years
- Median annual return on investment: 27.6%

SEI also offers an option to upgrade to GRITS Unlimited at a special highly discounted rate for APPA members. To be clear, APPA members who sign up for GRITS will receive 60 days of GRITS Unlimited at no cost. After 60 days, your account will be transitioned to the *free* GRITS-APPA version, unless you choose to upgrade to GRITS Unlimited. You will not be charged unless you opt to upgrade your service.

For more information about the GRITS partnership and to view a video on how the program works, visit www.appa.org/grits.cfm. To sign up for your free access to GRITS under the SEI-APPA partnership, please complete the brief form at <http://bit.ly/gritsappa>. And if you have questions about this new partnership or GRITS, send an e-mail to grits@endowmentinstitute.org.



COMING IN MAY/JUNE 2016

- Academic program prioritization
- Total cost of ownership

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Facilities Manager (ISSN 0882-7249) is published six times a year (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Send editorial submissions to steve@appa.org. A portion of APPA's annual membership dues (\$53) pays for the subscription to *Facilities Manager*. Additional annual subscriptions cost \$66 for APPA members, \$120 for nonmembers. Contact the editorial office for article reprints.

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