

*Cycle 2 – Energy Research Grants (FY07/08)*

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***Barriers to Adoption of Energy Efficient Practices  
and Technology by Small Businesses***

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**ABSTRACT.**

Nebraska's small businesses make a significant contribution to the state's economy. Increasing energy costs impact small business profit margins. This research focuses on the energy burden of small Nebraska businesses and their barriers to more efficient energy and natural resource use. The purpose is to 1) discover the existing energy burdens and the barriers to adopting energy efficient practices and new technology, and 2) discover the ways to remove the barriers to adopting energy efficient practices and new technology. Through interdisciplinary work involving UNL and UNO, through collaboration with the Nebraska Energy Assistance Network and with Richard Stowell in Biological Systems Engineering at UNL, the project will survey 1,800 small Nebraska businesses in rural and urban areas. The expected impact is a better understanding of those barriers to adoption of more energy efficient practices and technology and the potential ways to remove the barriers. Understanding the barriers will allow for more focused educational programs and additional research that address increasing the adoption of efficient practices and technology to reduce energy use.