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Industrial Extension Service Setting Standards for Energy

Raleigh, NC, (September 29, 2008)—The **North Carolina State University** Industrial Extension Service (IES) is helping to create the first energy management standard to be used worldwide.

In February 2008, The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) identified energy management as a priority area meriting the development and promotion of international standards. ISO focused on effective energy management due to its significant potential to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Phil Mintz, continuous improvement manager for the NC State University IES, participated in the first international meeting of ISO Project Committee (PC) 242, held in Washington, DC, on September 8-10. PC 242 will define the ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard, a globally relevant standard that is compatible with the existing suite of ISO management standards.

Mintz was one of 90 delegates from 25 countries at the initial session. The committee will work over several sessions to develop a framework that industrial plants, commercial facilities, and entire business organizations will be able to use to manage energy initiatives. Mintz wrote about his initial reactions to the meeting on the **NC State of Business** blog, in an entry titled "International Flavors for Energy."

Corporations, supply chain partnerships, utilities, energy service companies, and others are expected to use ISO 50001 as a tool to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in their own facilities, as well as those belonging to their customers and suppliers; and to benchmark their achievements. PC 242 hopes to release the standard for publication at the end of 2010.

Terri Helmlinger Ratcliff, IES executive director, expressed her appreciation of Mintz for serving on the standard-setting committee. "I'm very proud of Phil for lending his expertise to this effort," she said. "He's a great addition to the committee, and I'm sure they will come to appreciate and rely on him as much as we do."

The new ISO 50001 standard will expand the range of IES services. Mintz and other IES specialists provide business improvement tools including ISO 9000 quality management systems, ISO 13485 for medical devices, TS 16949 for the automotive industry, and ISO 14001 for environmental management.