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Polyiso Performs Again New Study Shows Significant Energy and Construction Savings

Alexandria, VA – A new study released by the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) shows that increasing the thickness of polyiso insulation on a roof deck significantly reduces energy costs while providing a positive rate of return on the cost of installation.

The study, performed by the Energy Service Provider Group and EBL Engineers, assessed the economic and environmental affects of using additional thicknesses of polyiso insulation on a roof deck over the minimum code requirement in two types of facilities – a retail building and an elementary school. Costs were calculated for six U.S. cities – Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver and Los Angeles. The study found that increasing the thickness by one inch over the ASHRAE-specified minimum insulation value for each city results in:

- * Significant rate of return for users for the financial investment of installing additional polyiso insulation
- * Reduction in the costs to facilities on average per year
- * Reduction in CO₂ emission by thousand of pounds, SO₂ emissions by thousands of grams and NO_x emissions by thousands of grams per year.

“The study reaffirms why polyiso is the most popular roof insulation product on the market today,” said Jared Blum, president PIMA. “In 2004, the industry had record production of more than 5.4 billion board feet. This study demonstrates concretely that polyiso insulation provides significant energy and construction savings while reducing the impact on the environment.”

Retail Building Overview

City	ASHRAE 90.1-2001	Thickness of polyiso in inches Energy Cost Savings/IRR % Internal Rate of Return		
Atlanta	R-15, 2.5	3" \$1,601/7.1	3.5" \$3,007/14	4.8" \$5,155/7.1
Boston	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$2,660/10.9	3.5" \$4,639/17.9	4.8" \$8,210/10.3
Chicago	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$3,273/14.3	3.5" \$5,592/22.2	4.8" \$9,774/13.2
Dallas	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$1,451/6.1	3.5" \$2,537/11.7	4.8" \$4,158/4.8
Denver	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$2,433/12.2	3.5" \$4,078/18.9	4.8" \$7,397/11.3
Los Angeles	R-15, 2"	2.5" \$538/14.6	3" \$1,249/1.2	4.8" \$1,571/>0.0

Elementary School Overview

City	ASHRAE 90.1-2001	Thickness of polyiso in inches Energy Cost Savings/IRR % Internal Rate of Return.		
Atlanta	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$727/3.5	3.5" \$1,299/8.7	4.8" \$2,291/3.2
Boston	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$1,358/8.1	3.5" \$2,229/13.7	4.8" \$3,919/6.8
Chicago	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$1,329/8.3	3.5" \$2,585/16.1	4.8" \$4,997/10.0
Dallas	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$592/1.6	3.5" \$1,013/6	4.8" \$1,758/.9
Denver	R-15, 2.5"	3" \$854/5.1	3.5" \$1,728/12.3	4.8" \$3,116/6.3
Los Angeles	R-15, 2"	2.5" \$378/15.8	3" \$920/2.4	4.8" \$1,312/>0.0

PIMA is the national trade organization that advances the use of polyiso insulation, one of the nation's most widely used and cost-effective insulation products. PIMA's membership consists of manufacturers and marketers of polyiso insulation, as well as suppliers to the industry. For updates on this topic, please visit the PIMA Web site at www.PIMA.org, or call 301-654-0000.