Universal Lighting Technologies

PORTRAITS

VA Healthcare Sites Save Energy With Universal Lighting Technologies' High Efficiency Ballasts

The maintenance staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Northern California Health Care Systems (NCHCS) Martinez site needed to find a way to reduce energy costs and standardize the large lighting-related inventory they were required to maintain.

The Martinez site, which includes 14 buildings, is just one of the many NCHCS outpatient clinic locations in Northern California. As each structure was built, it incorporated the newest lighting technology. "The extensive inventory of lamps, ballasts and fixtures to maintain these buildings became quite large and complex," explains Mark Fierner, project manager, Engineering and Facilities Management Services for NCHCS. "One of the lighting retrofit goals was to reduce the size and scope of the necessary inventory."

Engineering and Facilities Management Services worked on a solution with the consulting group Energy Resources Associates (ERA) of Livermore, Calif. ERA concluded as much as 25 percent could be saved in materials, labor and

energy costs by standardizing all lighting equipment, thereby reducing inventory.

The resurgence of the California energy crisis motivated Fierner's team to explore new options to save energy. All NCHCS facilities were already operating under the federal directive to reduce energy use by 20 percent in all government buildings. In addition to the federal mandate, the local utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., introduced a double rebate program to stimulate energy conservation in response to the state's energy problems. The Engineering and Facilities Management Services team submitted a proposal, based on ERA's recommendation, to the regional VA office, where it was approved.

In Brief:

Project:
Department of Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care Systems

Locations:
Martinez, Calif.
Oakland, Calif.

Products Used and Number Installed:
500 Universal Lighting Technologies high efficiency electronic ballasts (B232I120EL) and more than 400 Universal Lighting Technologies low power electronic ballasts (B232I120L)

For more information about:

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Energy Resources Associates
1626 Holmes Street
Livermore, Calif. 94550-6010
(925) 447-1140

"Working with ERA, all the buildings at the Martinez site were reviewed," Fierner said. "We selected the nine oldest buildings for the lighting retrofit. Additionally, we decided to retrofit two NCHCS buildings in downtown Oakland, Calif., that we also maintain. All the buildings serve as outpatient or support-related facilities."

In the areas identified as lighting critical at the Martinez and Oakland sites, the retrofit lighting project included the installation of 500 Universal Lighting Technologies high efficiency electronic ballasts (B232I120EL) and T8 F32XL SP41 fluorescent lamps. All other areas, such as hallways and storage areas, were retrofitted with more than 400 Universal Lighting Technologies low power electronic ballasts (B232I120L)

Universal Lighting Technologies' high efficiency ballasts

and T8 F32XL SP41 fluorescent lamps. The new lighting replaced a combination of T12 and T8 fluorescent lamps and magnetic ballasts at both sites.

"We were able to utilize all existing two-, three- and four-lamp fixtures," comments Fierner. "After a thorough cleaning of each fixture, the electricians installed new sockets in each unit. This small change resulted in the best contacts for the new fluorescent lamps and maximum light output for each lamp/ballast package.

"We estimate savings of more than 288,630 kwh with the new lamp/ballast systems for the 14,000-square-foot Martinez site and the 20,000-square-foot Oakland site. The projected energy cost savings of more than $36,000 is based on a blended kwh rate of $0.125. Our utility rebate was more than $30,000," explains Fierner. "We have already seen a 17 percent decrease in the site's utility bill in the month since the project was completed."

Response to the lighting retrofit project, valued at $150,000, has been positive. Fierner indicated that the lighting system passed the critical eye inspection of the maintenance crew chief in Martinez.

Universal Lighting Technologies' high efficiency electronic ballast represents the most significant energy-saving advancement in linear fluorescent technology in 25 years. The high efficiency ballast is ideal for retrofits, replacements and new construction and offers excellent return-on-

Universal Lighting Technologies' low power electronic ballasts

investment (ROI). The high efficiency ballast operates standard and high efficiency T8 lamps, and the lamp/ballast system yields up to 11 percent savings when compared to a standard T8 lamp/ballast system.

About Universal Lighting Technologies

Universal Lighting Technologies Inc. manufactures ballasts for all lighting applications. The company's full line of ballasts is designed for exceptional performance in lamps ranging from 5 to 2000 watts. These include magnetic, electronic, and compact fluorescent, high intensity discharge, sign and neon. As a major manufacturer of electrical equipment, Universal Lighting Technologies plays a lead role in setting industry standards for quality and energy efficiency. The company actively participates in trade associations and assists in the development of many standards through ANSI, NEMA and IESNA.

Want to Know More?

Universal Lighting Technologies' ballasts are available through a nationwide network of several thousand electrical distributors and are also incorporated in the designs of leading OEM lighting fixture manufacturers. To learn more about the full line of Universal Lighting Technologies' ballasts or to request a catalog, call 1-800-BALLAST, fax your request to 615-316-5146, or visit the Web site at www.universalballast.com.

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