

TWELVE FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT LIGHTING UPGRADES

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According to the EPA, lighting accounts for 30-40% of the electricity used in the typical commercial building.

- The nation's 4-5 million commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings spend some \$35 billion a year in electricity bills to operate their lighting systems.

- Nearly 90% of the total cost to run a fluorescent lamp over its lifetime is accounted for by the electricity to operate it.

- A recent Energy Cost Savings Council analysis of over 1,000 upgrade projects conducted nationwide found that energy-efficient lighting upgrades routinely pay themselves back within 2-3 years, delivering 30-50% returns on investment.

- Research shows that upgrades involving a comprehensive range of technologies – including lighting, HVAC, etc. – can save facilities up to \$1 per s/f in energy costs.

- Experts estimate that up to a third of the nation's future electricity requirements could be met by "demand-side management" measures - activities or products that reduce energy consumption or modify patterns of usage. These measures include the use of more energy-efficient electrical products such as lighting.

- According to a study conducted by the Assoc. of Lighting Management Cos., you can save up to 10% or more on lighting costs simply by cleaning lighting fixtures regularly.

- As part of their efforts to promote energy conservation, utilities often encourage the use of energy-efficient lighting products by offering end users rebates on the purchase of these items. Check with your local utility to find out about cash incentives that may be available on the purchase of energy-efficient lamps, ballasts, and/or lighting controls.

- Studies have shown that improvements in the average office lighting system can make employees up to 1 hour more productive per week – resulting in up to 3% gains in employee productivity.

- A recent national survey of CFOs found that the majority was either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the results of lighting upgrades they had managed or overseen in their facilities. The upgrades they witnessed had overwhelmingly delivered the energy and cost savings promised.

- The over 3,000 organizations which are part of the EPA's voluntary Energy Star Buildings Program have cumulatively saved some \$2.4 billion in energy bills and prevented over 50 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere as a result of the upgrades that they have undertaken. In ecological terms, this is equivalent to the removal of over 1.6 million cars from U.S. roads.

- There are several hundred energy service providers nationwide who can perform a low or no-cost facility audit and manage an energy-efficient lighting upgrade. Many can assist with project financing or will agree to be paid out of the guaranteed cost savings. Contact your local utility to be connected with a technician within the utility or to get assistance locating the nearest ESCO.

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