

Watt Stopper Sensors a targeted part of energy conservation measures at Uintah Basin Medical Center



Uintah Basin Medical Center, located in Roosevelt, UT, had a list of energy saving projects to implement. This list included upgrading the lighting systems throughout the hospital and the Physician's Clinic.

Occupancy sensors were targeted for rooms not often occupied. Marlin Michaelson, Director of Maintenance at Uintah Basin Medical Center, installed four different manufacturers' sensors to determine which would perform most effectively. The Watt Stopper proved to offer the most user-friendly occupancy sensors with the best operational features.

A total of 231 Watt Stopper sensors were installed in the 60,000 sq ft hospital. Two of the primary areas targeted for sensor placement were patient exam rooms and small offices. In these areas, lights were usually left on throughout the day, even though the areas were unoccupied for much of the time. WS-120 decorator style wall switches were selected for these spaces. The WS-120 offers a defined coverage pattern so that lights do not trigger on as individuals walk by the room's entrance. Ceiling occupancy sensors were installed in the hospital's corridors and hallways where a sig-

nificant amount of energy waste occurred because lighting was left on all day regardless of usage patterns.

Four CI-100 ceiling sensors and 42 WS-120 wall switches were installed in the Physician's Clinic's 7,000 sq ft facility. The occupancy sensors were especially effective here. Since most of the clinic's rooms have skylights, the sensor's built-in light level feature was utilized to hold lights off when sufficient sunlight is available.

Employees at Uintah Basin Medical Center were very pleased with the convenience of not having to turn the lights on or off. Some occupants have even inquired where the sensors could be purchased for use in their own homes. The only complaint has been when the lights turn off too soon. This was easily solved by adjusting the sensors time delay to a higher setting.

Before the installation, the Medical Center applied for an Energy Conservation Measures grant through the Office of Energy Services. This grant assisted the hospital in paying for their energy saving projects. The installation of occupancy sensors and lighting retrofit began in July 1994. Since its completion on March 31, 1995, the calculated savings analysis is quite significant. In the last twelve months since completing the project, Uintah Basin Medical Center has seen a 35% reduction in its lighting load, contributing to a savings of \$18,603. In the Physician's Clinic, the sensors have reduced the amount of time the lights are on by 56%, contributing to a \$2020 savings for the same 12 month period.

The success of the sensor installation has led to the specification of sensors for an additional 13,000 sq ft clinic currently under construction. Future plans at Uintah Basin Medical Center include installing occupancy sensors in seven other clinics and office buildings.

