Natural Resources Building Expects to Save $49,000 Annually with Complete Control

After years of battling with an inadequate lighting control system, Olympia Washington's Natural Resources Building (NRB) representatives implemented The Watt Stopper's Complete Control, a relay panel system that not only met the complex control needs of the facility, but also provided control options from remote locations within the campus firewall.

Prior to installing the new system, NRB's lights were not automatically controlled, and the state was eager to reduce its lighting usage with a more effective system. Mike Dean, project engineer, set out to find an efficient lighting control system. Dean chose The Watt Stopper's Complete Control after extensive research into available control solutions. Dean stated, "I did research and interviews and came up with the top three companies in the industry. I selected [The Watt Stopper] because of their track record and their respect in the industry."

Originally, NRB intended to integrate the new lighting control system with their existing building management system. But complications with integration postponed this goal temporarily.

Sure that Complete Control had the functionality to meet NRB's needs, a stand alone project was proposed. The project got the go ahead, and it turned out to be an exceptional solution. Complete Control offered a fully programmable networked system. It combined distributed low-voltage panel intelligence with WinControl, a PC-based administration and programming software.

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Sixteen Complete Control panels were installed throughout the seven story, 300,000 sq. ft. facility (two panels per floor plus two for the parking garage). Complete Control panels control lighting throughout the entire building including bathrooms and perimeter areas.

Occupants manually turn on lights in the morning, and each area features a scheduled automatic shut off time. Prior to the designated shut-off, lights blink once. The ON switch can then be used to enter an override if occupants remain in the area.

Throughout the day, photocells read light levels and adjust lighting using a 1/3 and 2/3 light set-up – designated lamps in a fixture turn on or off depending on daylight levels.

To enhance Complete Control, the NRB team uses WinControl. By installing it on NRB's computer network, users could access the software and monitor the system on-site and at facilities headquarters.

Savings analyses predict that NRB will save over one million Kwh hours in lighting alone, and another 400,000 Kwh is expected in HVAC savings. In all, NRB anticipates over $49,000 in annual savings.

All of those involved in the project are thrilled with the outcome. Kelly Billingsley from Pacific Lighting Systems, who was active in the project from its onset, stated, "Everyone involved is very appreciative, and the system has exceeded expectations."

Future projects with NRB using Complete Control hinge upon the ability to integrate with the existing building management system, a process which is well underway. Both The Watt Stopper and those at NRB are excited about extending Complete Control to other buildings on the campus.