Case Study – University of Wollongong

University of Wollongong

EXCELLENCE INNOVATION DIVERSITY

UOW makes a Rapid Start to lighting energy efficiency

Project Description:

Twice named Australia's University of the Year* - in 1999-2000 for its outstanding research and development partnerships and in 2000-2001 for preparing its students for the e-world – the University of Wollongong has now reached a continuous decade of five-star successes in the Good Universities Guides' categories of "Getting a Job", "Positive Graduate Outcomes" and Graduate Starting Salary".

It is a University of international standing with an enviable record of achievement in teaching and research. It is also located in one of the most beautiful settings in Australia, just an hour's drive south of Australia's largest city, Sydney.

University of Wollongong has a long history of being at the forefront of environmental and energy saving initiatives and has won the prestigious "Green Globe" awards on a number of occasions for its actions in energy saving. Since 2006 it has steadily decreased electricity consumption.

Striving for excellence and innovation however, the University sought solutions to make fluorescent lighting on the campus more efficient. Most of the lighting is late 20th century T8 fluorescent operating on magnetic ballast with some very old T12 lighting operating on rapid start ballast.

A number of solutions were investigated to find a way to upgrade the lighting to 21st century T5 standards before Ilum-a-Lite was contracted to use its innovative Save it Easy T5 adapters to upgrade both Rapid Start T12 and normal T8 lighting to T5 efficiency

The Save it Easy system is a simple upgrade system. Adapters are fitted to each end of a T5 tube and it then is installed in place of the original T8 tube with the simplicity of a tube change. Energy saving in excess of 30% is achieved on normal T8, 36 watt fittings and more than 40% with T12 Rapid Start fittings

As a very old technology, Rapid Start T12 has been notoriously difficult to upgrade to T5 standard until Ilum-a-Lite came up with the solution using Save it Easy. While slightly more complex and expensive than a T8 upgrade the savings in energy are greater. In addition the problems associated with obsolescence and the high cost of maintenance of the old T12 fittings are overcome. Perhaps most importantly however is that after upgrade the lighting goes from non conforming under Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) to complying at the top end of MEPS

The University of Wollongong commenced the upgrades in one building totally fitted out with T12 lighting and over the space of 5 working days, with students and classes in full swing, Ilum-a-Lite upgrade the lighting, before moving on to a second building with T8 lighting and upgrading that over three days.

Minimal waste was generated and all the old T8 and T12 fluorescent tubes were re-cycled. UOW will continue its upgrade program throughout 2009 and 2010 to ensure that it lives up to its commitments to energy efficiency, the environment and it own mottos of "excellence" and "innovation"

Summary of Results:*

Approximate Annual savings	$12,000 (T12) $11,000 (T8)
Approximate Investment	$90,000 Including T5 lamps and installation
Approximate Payback	58 months (T12) 35 months (T8)
Greenhouse gas savings per year	133 tonnes CO_2 equivalent

Further Information: Contact Ilum-a-Lite 1800 133 666 www.ilumalite.com or www.saveiteasy.com.au