

GE plants and warehouses lead ecomagination charge

Press Release from GE CLEVELAND, OH — Over the next two years, 148 GE Industrial manufacturing plants and warehouses worldwide... will undergo extensive lighting retrofits that could cut annual lighting energy costs at each facility an average of 50 %.

Based on extensive energy-savings analysis conducted at 65 of the 148 facilities, the retrofit will allow each location, on an average annualized basis, to reduce energy consumption by 1.4 million kWh and realize approximately \$86,000 in energy-cost savings (per facility). Estimates for the completed 148-facility retrofit include reducing energy consumption by 210.5 million kWh and saving \$12.8 million in energy costs, annually, when compared with the older lighting.

Another forecasted environmental benefit tied to the 148-facility retrofit is the production of 155,700 fewer metric tons of CO₂, which equates to the ongoing elimination of pollution from nearly 30,000 average-sized cars or the good that comes from planting over 70-square miles of trees.

Rising Energy Costs Spur Initiative

In August 2004, before GE launched its ecomagination environmental initiative, Jack Fish, vice president of global manufacturing, GE Consumer & Industrial, one of eight GE Industrial businesses, asked his team to devise a plan for cutting energy costs by 20 percent. He wanted to counter forecasted energy price increases that were sure to affect the profitability of GE Consumer & Industrial's Appliances, Lighting, Lighting Systems and Electrical Distribution operating units.

"Very few GE Consumer & Industrial plants were using energy-efficient linear fluorescent lamps," reports Fish. "We simply weren't taking our own good advice. Now, though, we're on track to achieve a 50-percent reduction in lighting energy consumption at these plants. That's two-and-a-half times our initial savings target."

Word of Savings Travels Fast

Initially about 50 GE Consumer & Industrial plants were identified for retrofits. Soon thereafter, however, due to the same performance attributes that attract energy-conscious customers to GE lighting products and solutions, interest in the plants initiative mushroomed across GE Industrial locations globally.

The retrofit now encompasses Consumer & Industrial, Plastics, Advanced Materials, Security, Sensing, Inspection Technologies and GE Fanuc. In many of the plants targeted for retrofits — 10 plants are converted as of January 2006 — older technologies such as standard high-pressure sodium or standard metal halide lamps are the previous lamps of choice.

Primary to each upgrade are six-lamp T8 High Bay linear fluorescent systems featuring ...electronic ballasts, which cut watts used by over 50 percent — from 465

watts per fixture at the ballast to 220 watts per fixture at the ballast. This energy-saving choice also dramatically upgrades the quality of light. With the new T8 lamps, the color-rendering index (CRI) climbs to 80 from 22 CRI for standard high-pressure sodium lamps or 65 CRI for standard metal halide lamps. The horizontal foot candle measurement — how wide light spreads out as it's projected from a fixture — more than triples.

In addition to the projected reduction in energy consumption by 210.5 million Kwh and the \$12.8 million in energy-cost savings enabled by the 148 retrofits, based on the averages established through GE's energy-savings analysis at 65 of 148 locations, GE plans to pursue an accelerated tax deduction incentive allowed by the Energy Policy Act...