Adobe Systems Incorporated, San Jose, California

Adobe Systems Saves $15,000 in One Month on Energy Costs by Using Isolé Plug Load Controls

To save energy in their San Jose, CA, headquarters, facility managers at Adobe Systems Incorporated encouraged employees to turn lighting and equipment off when they were not in their work stations. Although many employees cooperated in the energy conservation effort, much of the desktop equipment was still left on sometimes overnight and throughout weekends. To increase energy savings, the project team decided to implement measures that would ensure task lighting and equipment was kept off when not needed.

After seeing a presentation of the product, Adobe selected The Watt Stopper's Isolé IDP-3050 Plug Load Controllers. David Salem, Facilities Manager at Adobe, said, "Adobe chose Isolé because of the convenience of its motion sensor technology and internal surge protection, and because it provides another tool for reducing our utility consumption." In August, 2001, Adobe contracted the installation of 3,400 Isolé IDP-3050 units for offices and cubicles.

Estimates by Milestone Technologies, the information technology service provider who managed and installed the project, showed that Adobe would save approximately $22,000 per month, with 100% of the products operating. Initial results show that Adobe saved approximately $15,000 in electricity costs in the first month with only 60-70% of the products in use. That's a 10% reduction from the previous month and a 20% reduction from the previous year, when conservation efforts were initiated. All in all, Adobe should see a 9 1/2 month return on investment

At their headquarters, Adobe Systems equipped 3,400 workstations with Isolé to reduce their plug load energy consumption.

An industry leader in software development, Adobe's headquarters, which consists of an 18 and a 16 story building totaling 635,000 sq ft, houses over 1,800 employees. The facility, containing departments such as research and development, G&A, marketing, and sales, consists of mostly offices and cubicles.

Designed to control desktop loads in areas such as offices and cubicles, Isolé features a personal occupancy sensor, and a surge-suppressing power strip. The sensor turns equipment and task lighting on and off based on occupancy. Adobe employees plugged desktop equipment such as computer monitors, radios, and task lighting into the power strip's controlled outlets.

Adobe has received positive feedback from workers, many of whom were initially worried that the products might be intrusive or have delays in turning equipment back on. But employees were happy to find that Isolé provides instant reaction time to occupancy and the power strip's design makes it easy to keep under crowded desktops.

Pleased with the successful energy savings from the first month, and with the $73,000 received in rebates from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Adobe is planning on installing Isolé in their new 270,000 sq ft building in San Jose, due to open for business in 2003. A project at an Adobe facility in Seattle is also in the works, and further use of Isolé is being considered in other locations.