



Efficiency Vermont

Employees at 49 State Garages See the Light – and the Equipment

Burlington, VT— Working in a dimly lit garage can be challenging for anyone, especially for employees who log up to 50 hours a week. And when it's not just one garage but 49 across Vermont, the need for better working conditions is even more imperative.

That's why the Vermont Agency of Transportation, also known as VTrans, recently upgraded all of its garages with energy-efficient lighting. As a result, employees are enjoying the benefits of a brighter working space while VTrans is paying less on its electric bills.

“Our employees let us know that the lighting in many of our garages was substandard, but now that improvements have been made we are getting kudos for making their work environment much brighter,” said VTrans Secretary Neale Lunderville. “When you are saving money and making life easier for your employees, that's a win-win situation.”

The 49 VTrans garages, most of which were built between 1960 and 1980, house the equipment necessary to plow roads, repair potholes, gather and dump refuse, and handle other transportation-related duties. The new lighting makes it both easier and safer for employees to service their equipment.

Working with Efficiency Vermont, the statewide energy efficiency utility, VTrans installed approximately 1,400 new high-performance fluorescent fixtures. The project not only provided improved lighting, but is expected to save VTrans \$8,327 a year in energy costs. Efficiency Vermont provided incentives for the project as well as expert advice throughout the process.

In addition to the partnership with Efficiency Vermont, the project was made possible with help from the State Resource Management Revolving Fund (SRMRF). SRMRF was created in 2004 to fund conservation measures that will likely result in a life-cycle cost benefit for the state.

“The Department of Buildings and General Services is thrilled when any state agency embarks on an energy conservation project,” said Tom Sandretto, deputy commissioner of Vermont State Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) that manages SRMRF. “We were happy to help VTrans secure funding because the energy efficiency was a virtually guaranteed payback, so this project was as close to a no-brainer as possible.”

VTrans commitment to energy-efficiency lighting is part of the agencies' participation in the State Agency Energy Plan that aims to reduce energy consumption in state agency buildings by 20 percent by 2012. In addition to the garage project, the VTrans energy team is also looking into large and small energy efficiency measures including locks on thermostats, occupancy sensors, exterior lighting, no idling rules, new pumps and using biodiesel fuel for its fleet of trucks.

“The VTrans team recognized that by tapping into the SRMRF revolving fund and working with Efficiency Vermont, they could improve their working conditions and lead by example when it comes to energy efficiency and being environmentally conscious,” said Nicole Carpenter, project manager at Efficiency Vermont. “Lighting is often the most effective way for businesses to reduce their energy costs.”

The VTrans garages are located in Dorset, Wilmington, Ascutney, Chester, Dummerston, Jamaica, Rockingham, Springfield, Brandon, Clarendon, Mendon, Rutland, Sudbury, Randolph, Reading, Rochester, Royalton, Thetford, Tunbridge, White River Junction, Windsor, Woodstock, Middlebury, New Haven, Berlin, Middlesex, Montpelier, Morrisville, Williamstown, Boltonville, Bradford, Danville, Lunenburg, Lyndon, St. Johnsbury, Cambridge, Eden, Enosburg, Georgia, South Hero, Saint Albans, Barton, Bloomfield, Canaan, Derby, Irasburg, Island Pond, Westmore and Westfield.

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Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy and protect Vermont's environment. Efficiency Vermont is currently operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 1-888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com.