

Applied Trust thinks and lives 'green'

Success Stories – September 2008

At Applied Trust, we don't just help clients green up their IT infrastructure — we live it every day. Applied Trust purchased the third floor of the Columbine building in 2003. The Columbine building has a unique history as being one of the first 'green' buildings in downtown Boulder. Built in 1993, it was originally slated as a traditional speculative office building until E Source signed on as a tenant and worked with the developer to redesign the original building plans to be much more energy efficient, including using energyefficient shell components, lighting, and space conditioning equipment.

Upgrading the building shell with extra insulation and higher quality windows reduced heating and cooling loads and helped to equalize the thermal demands on the HVAC system. Specific lighting features included the use of daylighting, controlled admission of natural light into a space through windows to reduce or eliminate electric lighting, as well as the use of indirect lighting instead of conventional downlighting. Additional features included low-flow water fixtures and tankless 'on-demand' water heating.

Although a few of the initial building characteristics have been modified over the years, the building largely retains its original energy-efficient footprint, and Applied Trust has added new features as well. The photos highlight some of the current energy-efficient aspects of the building.

When we set out to "green up" Applied Trust, we were surprised at how seemingly small things quickly added up. Here are just some of the changes you might find interesting, and hopefully will spark energy-saving ideas for your environment:

Set backlight timeouts on phones. Some of the larger Avaya™ display phones that we use have a 4-watt backlight that was on 24 hours a day. A setting in the phone configuration now turns them off after two hours of inactivity, saving an estimated 220 kWh per year.

Replace inefficient lighting. When the Columbine building was built, great care was taken to install the most efficient lighting available at the time, and a large number of Compact Fluorescent (CFL) sconces were installed. Unfortunately, even these 'efficient' sconces used 40 watts each. Replacing them with 3-watt LED sconces not only made them more attractive (see inset), but saves more than 2,900 kWh per year.

Replace old signs. Emergency Exit signs are required by law, but old-style units use incandescent bulbs and are yet another device that uses energy 7x24. Each sign that's replaced with a modern LED unit saves around 100 kWh per year.

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Cool down laser printers. Laser printers are a significant energy consumer in most modern office environments. To meet user expectations, most printers keep their fuser warm so that they can quickly print the first page of a print job. On evenings and weekends when users are gone, this is just wasted energy. Configuring one-hour timeouts for 'sleep' mode on all of our printers saves us an additional 3,400 kWh per year.

Inbound faxes often resulted in printed paper that was looked at for a few seconds and then thrown away. We've switched to electronic fax reception, so that all inbound faxes are received via email, dramatically reducing paper and energy waste.

For the complete story, please go to:

<http://www.atrust.com/news/the-barking-seal/q12008/applied-trust-lives-green>

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