



Custom Efficiency

For Complex Projects

Taking advantage of 6 billion years of energy-efficient lighting

With more than 170 locations in the United States and Canada, Sysco Corporation is North America's largest food distributor. Its customers include restaurants, healthcare and educational facilities, lodging establishments, and others who prepare meals away from home. Virtually anywhere a meal is served outside the home, there's a good chance Sysco provides some of the ingredients.

As part of Idaho Power's Custom Efficiency program, which helps large commercial and industrial customers identify and pay for energy efficiency improvements, Sysco Idaho's distribution center explored the value of upgrading its old, inefficient lighting systems.

"When we heard about the Idaho Power program," said Nacho Orduno, the Sysco Idaho facilities manager in Boise, "we knew it was something we could benefit from." One of the best things about it, according to Nacho, was that "Idaho Power allowed us to try some different ideas."

Light from the sky

Sysco Idaho replaced 124 high-pressure sodium fixtures and 255 standard lights with new, high-efficiency fluorescent lighting. The new lighting system produces significantly more lumens of light than Sysco's original system, while using 67 percent fewer kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity.

At the same time, Sysco Idaho installed a series of 21 cylindrical tubes, called light pipes, in the roof and ceiling structures. More than just skylights, the pipes direct sunlight from outside into the building and distribute it to the interior spaces. "It allows us to practice the ultimate energy conservation," said Nacho. "Illuminating windowless spaces without turning on a light."



Resetting things right

Depending on the weather and time of day, the amount of natural light a lighting pipe can direct into an interior space varies. Therefore, the Sysco system included controls that cycle the overhead lighting off as sunlight fills the room. When Idaho Power did its final inspection of the project, its engineers found the controls had not been set correctly. The system was recommissioned at no cost to Sysco, even though the process required ordering new parts and significant amounts of logging and setup time.

“We’ve realized an average annual savings of 35 percent.”

*– Nacho Orduno
Facilities Manager
Sysco Foods*

The savings

Total labor and material costs for the project were \$84,537, of which Idaho Power reimbursed \$48,086. “We saw an immediate impact on our energy usage,” said Nacho. The impact was substantial, too. Compared to 2007, Sysco Idaho realized a savings of over 1.1 million kWh in the past year alone, or enough electricity to power 90 average-size homes.

Together with the Idaho Power reimbursement, the power savings enabled Sysco Idaho to achieve a remarkable return on its investment. “We made our money back within two years of the project’s completion,” Nacho reported.

Uncommon savings are quite common

Saving energy has always been a smart business decision. Now, Idaho Power makes it attainable. Our complete suite of energy efficiency programs provides attractive incentives to commercial and industrial customers who want to reduce their utility costs.

- The **Custom Efficiency** program offers substantial rebates to large commercial and industrial customers who invest energy-saving improvements in their facilities.
- **Easy Upgrades** provides incentives of up to \$100,000 when companies retrofit their infrastructures with energy-saving upgrades.
- The **Building Efficiency** program pays up to \$100,000 *per project* to mitigate the additional capital costs when companies upgrade their lighting, cooling, controls, and building shells to more efficient components.
- **FlexPeak Management** offers commercial and industrial customers incentives in the form of recurring payments for reducing their power consumption during times of overall peak demand.



How much can your company save?

For more information about Idaho Power’s energy efficiency incentive programs, go to www.idahopower.com/business or call us at 208-388-5624. We’ll show how you can join smart companies like Sysco, saving energy and money.

The above success story was produced in cooperation with, and approval from, Sysco Idaho, Inc.