



Energy Efficiency & Customer Research & Development presents...

Customer Advanced Technologies Program Newsletter

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From the Editor's Desk

The other day a colleague asked me "why does an electric utility like SMUD have a program like Customer Advanced Technologies?" As I prepared to respond to him, it occurred to me that others may have the same question, so here it goes...

The primary purposes of the Customer Advanced Technologies (C.A.T.) program are to:

- ✓ Deliver innovative solutions by identifying promising technologies for the future.
- ✓ Conduct applied research that provides valuable 'real-world' experience and enables our customers to make wise decisions regarding applications of emerging technologies.

Unlike some research and development programs, the C.A.T. program works with researchers, manufacturers, and customers to implement demonstration projects in the field. Although most projects have a happy ending, some don't. However, all projects are a success in one way: they provide valuable information and lessons for the future.

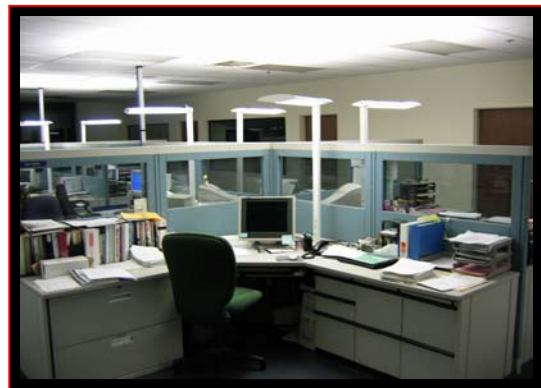
Spotlight: Office Torchiere Lighting System

Last year United Stationers Supply Company in Sacramento agreed to participate in a research project designed to study possible benefits of implementing a "task-ambient" lighting system. The study involved installing torchiere fixtures in the open office areas and turning off the overhead lighting systems. Participants were asked not to use the overhead lights during the test period unless it was absolutely necessary.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. Determine potential energy and cost savings.
2. Determine the photometric performance of the torchiere fixtures.
3. Obtain feedback and suggestions from the end-users.

Result: A whopping 86 percent reduction in lighting energy consumption while still providing acceptable illumination levels!



Savings Summary

- Cost for fixtures: \$5,495
- Estimated annual energy savings: 37,978 kWh
- Estimated annual cost savings: \$3,038
- Simple financial payback: 1.8 years

To learn more about this project, please download the technology evaluation report available online at www.smud.org/education/cat/index.html

You Asked For It...

Several of you have asked us to make it easier to find technology evaluation reports on the C.A.T. program Web page. The new layout features listings of all reports by title. Reports may now be downloaded directly from the main program Web page. Thanks to all of you who took the time to provide your suggestions!