

Sustainability Success Story

Open the Door, Turn Off the Heat

The Challenge

Shipping / Receiving at many of our operations suffered an energy loss problem common to many similar facilities. These work spaces involve a lot of physical activity, and people are relatively warmly dressed. As a result doors are often left open (people prefer cooler temperatures), and as a consequence heating systems operate much longer than need be. Since heating is enabled all the time and the area is relatively warm there is little incentive to close the doors.

It is a particular problem in the spring and fall months. Clear plastic curtains may be used, but these are expensive and awkward to pass through, and sometimes present safety problems. Air curtains are another option, but these are even more expensive to install and maintain than plastic curtains.

Our Solution



We had contact switches installed that cut the power to the heating units when the contacts are separated (by the doors being open). In order to warm up the area, the doors must be closed. Contact switches were put on regular sizes doors (left photo) and on overhead doors (right hand photo).



Project Cost, Annual Savings and Other Benefits

<i>Project Cost</i>	\$3,000 (5 doors)
<i>Project Savings</i>	\$1,400 per year (Electrical costs)
<i>Electricity Savings</i>	Reduced electrical consumption by 28,000 kWh for this application, which is over 1 1/2% of the total annual electrical use for the entire campus.
<i>Simple Payback (years) / Return on Investment (ROI)</i>	2.2 Years / A Return on Investment of 45%
<i>Reduced Maintenance Costs</i>	Reducing the operating hours of the fan reduces maintenance and repair costs on the fan(s).
<i>Environmental Improvement - Greenhouse Gas Reduction</i>	Reduced emissions of 10 Tonnes of GHG