



Improve Your Lighting “MPG”

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING

I was asked to provide comments on Energy Efficient Lighting that would be both meaningful and beneficial for you in managing your building operations. So, what I say to you is that I believe most everyone today knows that Energy Efficient Lighting applications and techniques are readily available to reduce the cost of your current lighting scheme whether it is an interior or exterior building environment or a specialty area lighting situation. However, we all know that everyone just doesn't get around to implementing it. I suggest that part of the problem is that we don't typically get a lighting bill every month in our P&L's; but we get a utility or energy bill and it is just too easy for us to let that economic opportunity slip on by.

What if for a moment we changed the opportunity and were talking about your vehicle and the conversation was around the vehicle's vintage and its efficiency relative to miles per gallon (mpg). Do you think that you could quickly evaluate whether or not it is truly a significant economic opportunity for you to improve your mpg of gasoline consumed by your car by doing something to it...maybe changing the tires, a motor tune-up or change in grade of fuel it uses? Each of these options still enabling your car to get you where you want to go but it's just consuming less gas along the way.

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If one of these options improved your mpg by 50 percent, say from 15 mpg to 30 mpg, would you do it if it had a payback of 9 months to 2 years? Okay, still maybe not because you might not have the couple hundred to maybe even a thousand bucks it could cost to install whatever is the efficiency measure to get this great improvement in gasoline efficiency. But what if the gas company you normally used said that they would pay for it, and charged you incrementally over the next year or so through the offset of the savings you are going to incur as your drive your car? All in all, it doesn't cost you anything out of pocket because the gasoline supplier paid for it...okay maybe they charge you a few interest points for their trouble. The bottom line is that you get the benefit using someone else's money. Why might you ask would the gasoline company ever think of doing this? This reason might be that on a large scale there just might not be enough gas to go around or they need to create a way to reduce environmentally harmful emissions.

Now back to the lighting world, the same options are available for you today in improving the operations of your building with similar economic results...but much larger. There are new light bulbs, ballasts, fixtures, controls, technology and configurations readily available for you reduce the cost of your lighting situation. Also, in many cases there may even be a "gasoline company" a.k.a the utility or government incentive to help you pay for the cost of making the improvement. However, the trouble is that we just don't get reminded enough what the cost is to create light every time we turn on a switch for a lighting circuit like we do the cost of driving a car whenever we fill it up with gas at the pump.

These two opportunities are different but much more similar that you might think. If you need help determining what the opportunity might be for you to save dollars at the "pump" for your lighting situation give Servidyne a call and our team of experts can help you evaluate it. Thanks for reading.

About the Author

Todd Jarvis has served as Servidyne Systems, LLC President since March 2006 and Chief Executive Officer since April 2008. He joined the Company in 2003 through the company's acquisition of the Wheatstone Energy Company Inc., which he co-founded in 1992 and served as the Vice President and COO. Mr. Jarvis has been in the energy services industry for more than 20 years. He holds a degree of Bachelor of Science/Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business from Mississippi State University.

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ABOUT SERVIDYNE Servidyne provides comprehensive energy efficiency solutions, sustainability programs, and other products and services that significantly enhance the operating and financial performance of existing buildings. We enable customers to cut energy consumption and realize immediate cost savings across their portfolios, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the comfort and satisfaction of their buildings' occupants. Servidyne serves a broad range of markets in the United States and internationally, including corporate, commercial office, hospitality, gaming, retail, industrial, distribution, healthcare, government and education. We are proud to be an important Part of the Solution – for now and for future generations.

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