

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

COMPUTER POWER MANAGEMENT INSTALLATION SAVES ENERGY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for the 13 municipalities and three electoral areas that are located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. The CRD provides regional governance and services for the entire Capital Region, such as distributing water supply, disposing of sewage and managing garbage and recycling.

THE CHALLENGE

Reduce computer energy use while maintaining system flexibility

Showing community leadership, the CRD recently participated in BC Hydro's Power Smart Turn It Off Challenge, which challenged municipalities across the province to conserve the most electricity during a three-month period. The CRD formed a committee to spearhead the energy-saving efforts, and one solution that the committee came up with was to encourage employees to turn off their computers and monitors at the end of each working day.

However, the CRD's IT department had reservations about this. The department installs updates across the network every Monday evening and was concerned that daily shutdown would compromise their ability to manage the system. An initial investigation of computer power management software showed that most systems either turn all system computers on or turn them all off. This would not work for the CRD.

"We accomplished two goals at once: saving money on computer energy use and maintaining the flexibility needed in our computer network to accommodate our IT requirements."

— David Hennigan,
Senior Manager,
CRD Information Technology
& GIS Services, Capital
Regional District

ENJOYING THEIR SUCCESS

Remarkable savings

The installation of computer power management software on 540 CRD computers will save almost 173,000 kilowatt hours and cut electricity bills by over \$8,000 per year.

Continued Conservation

Using the computer energy saved, CRD is looking to reinvest in more energy conservation initiatives in the future.

THE SOLUTION

Flexible Computer Power Management Software

In consultation with their BC Hydro key account manager, the CRD did a more intensive investigation of the software options and found a product called Policy Maker, manufactured by AutoProf. Policy Maker allows the IT department to set its own schedule centrally and to program one night each week when the automatic shutdown does not go into effect. Further, the software does not allow users to override the settings, which ensures that the shutdown works throughout the system, maintaining the energy savings.

“This was the only product we found that let us set exactly what we wanted,” says Scott Bennett, Systems Support Analyst with the CRD’s IT group. “It allows us to conduct our upgrades as needed but still get the benefit of energy savings from automatic shutdown the rest of the time.”

With the assistance of incentives through the Power Smart Product Incentive Program, the CRD installed the software on a total of 540 computers across their various facilities.

THE BENEFITS

Electrical Savings

The computer power management software installations are saving almost 173,000 kilowatt hours, enough to power 17 homes each year, and cutting the CRD’s electricity bill by over \$8,000 per year. In addition, CRD received \$1,620 in incentives from the Product Incentive Program.

Further Investment

As a result of the Turn It Off Challenge, the CRD received some 70 suggestions from employees on ways to reduce energy use. Some of these have already been implemented, while others are planned. According to Simon Joslin, Manager, Real Estate & Facility Management, “We’ll use the computer energy savings to reinvest in more energy conservation initiatives in the future.”

Conservation is a great way to start meeting B.C.’s growing need for electricity.

YOU CAN SAVE TOO

Discover just how much your building or business can benefit from energy-efficient lighting and other technologies—right now and for years to come. Under the Power Smart Product Incentive Program (PIP), products that qualify for incentives that will lower your payback time and make upgrade projects even more attractive include:

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs are ideal for areas where lights are left on for long periods, such as hallways, because they use up to 75 per cent less energy than regular light bulbs and can last up to 10 years.
- Energy saver T8 fluorescent tubes. These tubes are 50 per cent more energy efficient than older models and work well in common spaces or meeting areas.
- LED exit signs. LED signs use only 10 per cent of the energy old-fashioned incandescent signs do and last anywhere from 10 to 25 years—which means you will save about \$12 per sign, per year.
- Lighting occupancy sensors. With these sensors, the lights will go on only when someone is in the area, so you stop wasting energy.

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Find out how you can benefit from energy-efficient technologies through our Product Incentive Program.

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