



Portraits

Cutting Costs for Grocery Stores

DCL® Technology Saves Money and Time for New Construction

Midwest regional grocery giant Hy-Vee keeps its stores brightly lit and welcoming to customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Of course, high light levels come at a cost. With utility rates on the rise, Hy-Vee began looking for new technologies that would reduce its power bills without any noticeable change in lighting.

In 2002, Energy Management Consultants (EMC) helped to develop a solution to Hy-Vee's dilemma. All new Hy-Vee grocery stores would incorporate cutting-edge lighting controls. Light levels at the front of each store would adjust automatically to the natural sunlight available (daylight harvesting), and scheduling software would automatically dim the lights after 6:00 p.m. and throughout the overnight hours when lower light levels were appropriate.

The financial and environmental benefits of this solution satisfied the needs of Hy-Vee, but EMC is always on the lookout for new technologies that will improve its clients' lighting designs. That's why Rob Kenney at EMC was among the first to discover DCL® (Demand Control Lighting) technology.

Only DCL is able to provide continuous dimming capabilities from full power to 40 percent without the need for extra control wires. By eliminating the low-voltage cabling required by other lighting control systems, Kenney calculated a savings of \$6,000 to \$7,000 for each new Hy-Vee store on the installation alone.

In May 2008, Hy-Vee agreed to test DCL in two new stores: one in Mission, Kansas, and one in Owatonna, Minnesota.

According to EMC, the decision paid off. DCL reduced installation time for the electrical contractor as well as reducing the potential for mistakes during the installation process. Without control wiring, there was no possibility that the contractor might miss a row or fixture, make connections between rows incorrectly, or cross the wires.

In Brief

Project

Hy-Vee Grocery Stores

Locations

Mission, Kansas
Owatonna, Minnesota
Raytown, Missouri

Products Used

DEMANDflex™ Ballasts with DCL®
System Controls

Number Installed

Approximately 800 per store

For More Information About:

Energy Management Consultants
www.emccontrols.com

Hy-Vee
www.hy-vee.com

Universal Lighting Technologies
www.unvlt.com



“By incorporating DCL technology into our lighting design, we have successfully reduced building costs and labor time during construction for our customer,” said Kenney. “With DCL, all of the problems associated with low-voltage control cabling go away completely.”

Based on the improved installation costs, EMC recommended that DCL become the standard lighting control system for all new Hy-Vee stores. DCL was immediately included in construction of a third store near Kansas City, Missouri. Hy-Vee expects to build five to six more new stores with DCL technology this year, plus another eight to ten next year.

An employee-owned company with more than 225 locations in seven states, Hy-Vee builds and operates each new store to corporate standards established by the company headquarters in Iowa.

DCL technology is specifically designed to operate with high-efficiency DEMANDflex™ ballasts. These ballasts can be controlled by the DCL system to the appropriate power level (ballast factor) in order to ensure just the right amount of light for the application and avoid wasting energy on over-lighting.

Each DEMANDflex ballast in a Hy-Vee grocery store is tuned to about 95 percent of full power during installation. For this

reason, along with the superior efficiency of DCL, EMC calculates an additional ongoing energy savings of five percent compared to the previous control system.

DCL technology also enables customers to take advantage of a local power provider’s Demand Response program. By joining one of these programs, the company agrees to reduce power during



peak demand hours when the electrical grid is approaching capacity. Demand Response lighting power levels can be implemented by Hy-Vee automatically via the DCL controls.

“Hy-Vee is very progressive in its use of new technologies to solve problems and improve performance,” said Kenney. “In our experience, DCL has met all expectations for reduced installation cost as well as precise, effective lighting control.”

About Universal Lighting Technologies

For six decades, Universal Lighting Technologies, Inc., has been bringing power and precision to the world’s most innovative lighting. Headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., with operations and distribution worldwide, the products of Universal Lighting Technologies are marketed under the Universal® and Triad® brand names. Universal Lighting Technologies is focused on designing, manufacturing and distributing the industry’s finest lighting ballasts and controls.

Want to know more?

To learn more about the full line of Universal Lighting Technologies’ ballasts or to request a catalog, call 1-800-BALLAST, fax your request to 615-316-5162, or visit the Web site at www.unvlt.com. Universal Lighting Technologies—*Energy Intelligence in Lighting.*



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