Checking in Efficiency: Success at the Hampton Inn

The History

In the hospitality industry, comfort is about style and substance. Guests, whether business travelers or families on vacation, appreciate the details: fresh décor, clean rooms, and amenities like 42" flat-screen televisions. As for substance, yesterday's heating, air conditioning and ventilation equipment are no match for today's high performance units.

The Hampton Inn San Diego – Kearny Mesa has been owned and operated by the same family since 1989. "We were the first Hampton Inn in California," recalls general manager (and daughter of the owner), Sarah Carlstead. "I was the little kid pushing luggage carts around the lobby back then."

Times change. Over the past year, style and amenity upgrades included gutting the bathrooms to the studs, redesigning the bedrooms, and outfitting guestrooms with 42-inch flat screen televisions.

"Our franchise renewal was coming up, which was a perfect time to update our look and go above and beyond the standards outlined in our Franchise Product Improvement Plan."

But the project wasn't just about style — the Inn was also very concerned with updating its energy efficiency — particularly for its air conditioning and heating units.

The Project

The renovation project included an overhaul of the Inn's air conditioning units. "We were thinking about efficiency and maintenance," explains Carlstead. "The old units used a lot of energy and required continual maintenance."

Aesthetics were also a major influence in the project. Many of the newer packaged terminal units have sleek, modern lines and are aesthetically pleasing to the discriminating guest.

So Ms. Carlstead upgraded the old units with energy efficient, new packaged terminal heat pumps (PTHPs).

"We went directly to Carrier to buy the equipment," recalls Carlstead. "We stored the units in the hallways and over the next five weekends, the team installed all of the units."

Project Fast Facts

Project Type:
Comprehensive upgrade of Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps (PTHPs)

Participant:
Hampton Inn San Diego – Kearny Mesa

Location:
San Diego, CA

Building Type:
Hotel

Building Vintage:
1989

Total # of A/C Units:
156

Average tonnage per unit:
.75 tons

Average efficiency of old equipment:
8 EER

Average efficiency of new equipment:
11.5 EER

Estimated Lifetime Energy Savings:
821,989 kWh

Estimated Annual Energy Cost Savings:
$9,895

Estimated Lifetime Energy Cost Savings:
$115,078

Project's Estimated Simple Payback:
1.6 years

(Estimates based on the 2004-05 Database for Energy Efficient Resources (DEER) v. 2.01 October 26, 2005, DEER Run Id: CHtl0785PTHP2, using average energy costs of $0.14/kWh)

COOLING PREMIUM EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The energy efficient air conditioning upgrades at the Hampton Inn San Diego – Kearny Mesa add comfort and style to the guest rooms.

The Results

Once the project was finished, Ms. Carlstead ensured that staff was educated about the new units by giving them tutorials.

"We wanted to make sure our housekeeping staff was trained to turn off the air conditioning when guests leave — which saves additional energy," explains Carlstead.

The project qualified for $8,775 in Premium Efficiency Cooling Program rebates for the new, energy efficient PTHPs.

"Applying for the rebates was easy," recalls Carlstead. "All I needed were the serial numbers and the check was turned around quickly."

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>
> — Sarah Carlstead, general manager

Ultimately, the air conditioning upgrades were a big hit at the Inn.

"We are definitely satisfied with our new air conditioners," reports Carlstead. "They are quieter, they look nicer, and our guests love them."

The energy efficient air conditioning upgrades at the Hampton Inn San Diego – Kearny Mesa add comfort and style to the guest rooms, while playing a crucial role in keeping room rates competitive by keeping operating costs at bay. The 156 packaged terminal units will save over 800,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity in the next 15 years. This equates to energy savings of $9,895.00 per year over the old equipment

With the incentives provided by the Premium Efficiency Cooling Program, the incremental cost of purchasing premium equipment should pay for itself in energy savings in 1.6 years.

Financially, Carlstead made style and substance into a sound investment.

To learn more about the Premium Efficiency Cooling Program and how you can save on your cooling costs, contact: 888.369.1608 or visit: www.premiumcooling.com

COOLING PREMIUM EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

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