Case Study

South Lake Alternative School

Project Information

Location:
8825 Rainier Avenue South

Description:
Improved lighting and HVAC systems, and efficient operating strategies

Annual Energy Savings:
1,024,100 kWh

Annual Energy Cost Savings:
$39,000

Project Cost:
$304,486

SCL Incentive Amount:
$71,594

SCL Project Managers:
Linda Tong /
David Van Holde

Improved Lighting in a Learning Environment

"City Light helped South Lake Alternative School dramatically improve its lighting," exclaimed Frank Griffin, Mechanical Coordinator for the Seattle Public School District.

Linda Tong, Energy Management Analyst with City Light performed the initial lighting audit. "South Lake had many high ceilinged, open-concept classrooms that were lit with 400-watt metal halide and high-pressure sodium fixtures. The classrooms were gloomy and dim. Not at all conducive to learning." So, the School District and Seattle's Lighting Design Lab worked together to design a state-of-the-art T8 fluorescent direct/indirect lighting system that included independent switching for each class area. In those classrooms with traditional walls, existing fixtures were retrofitted with T8 lamps and electronic ballasts. "My students and I noticed the difference right away", said teacher Ms. Jones. My kids can't use the excuse anymore of not being able to see the board," she added.

Following the lighting project, City Light assisted with incentives for installation of a heating and ventilation controls system that added even more savings and improved student comfort. The utility's staff also worked with the District's Resource Conservation Specialist, David Broustis, to educate school staff about conservation practices in their school. Working with custodial staff, they implemented several new operational strategies. The combined approach of new operating strategies, efficient habits of students and teachers, new lighting technology and controls has made South Lake Alternative School a showcase of energy efficiency.