

An Energy Audit Improves Efficiency

Candler Hills Golf Club
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The Problem

Electrical bills for the new golf course maintenance facility at Candler Hills were higher than expected.

The Solution

Andrew Jorgensen, CGCS, superintendent at Candler Hills Golf Club, solicited the aid of the local electrical utility to perform a free energy audit. The goal of the energy audit was to identify ways to reduce electrical consumption and monthly expenses. The audit contained many energy-saving recommendations that, when added together, significantly reduced the monthly utility bill at Candler Hills. Several of the recommendations included:

- Adding timers to the equipment wash-water recycling system that only provide power to blowers/motors during operational hours
- Installing photocells and timers on exterior lights
- Removing a vending machine that produced no income
- Judiciously turning off lights after sunrise
- Shutting down the air compressor at the end of each day
- Initiating a program to replace high energy use fluorescent and halogen lighting fixtures with LED fixtures

The Results

The initial investment for new bulbs and timers was roughly \$250, but monthly energy expenses dropped by about 20 percent. Candler Hills has since performed energy audits on other buildings, further increasing their overall savings. Initially, creating a culture of conservation was a challenge for the staff but once everyone saw the big picture, it became the norm. If Candler Hills had it to do all over again, the new maintenance facility would have been designed with reduced energy usage in mind, rather than performing the improvements after construction.



Figure 1. Collectively, small improvements like replacing high-energy-use bulbs with LED lights and installing timers to decrease power use during nonoperational hours can make a big dent in monthly power usage.