Energy efficiency in leased office space for law firms

Case Studies

Overview
Law firms are realizing cost savings by making energy improvements in their leased office space. Implementing energy efficiency measures such as lighting controls, energy management systems, and daylighting can have a positive impact on your bottom line.

Law Firm Tenants

The law firm of White & Case LLP partnered with NYSERDA to enhance the law firm’s design and build-out of leased space spanning nine floors in New York City. Working with consultant Robert Derector Associates (RDA), the firm was presented with three energy efficiency design options to choose from. RDA’s modeling provided cost of installation, estimated electricity savings, and available NYSERDA incentives for each design package as compared to the modeled baseline scenario. With costs and projection savings modeled, the firm was able to make informed, energy efficiency decisions that will result in significant savings.

With funding provided by NYSERDA, Paul Hastings LLP was able to engage the services of energy efficiency consultant Robert Derector Associates (RDA) to help with the design of the firm’s new location in New York City. The resulting energy modeling analysis informed the firm’s decision-making process in incorporating energy-efficient components in the build-out of the new space. RDA handled the entire application and process, requiring minimum effort by Paul Hastings LLP.

The law firm of Reed Smith LLP participated in the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) Tenant Energy Optimization program to assist with the energy-efficient design of the firm’s offices in Philadelphia. The ULI program provides tenants with a 10-step framework and support resources in undertaking the build-out of the class-A office space.
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| **White & Case LLP**| 1221 Avenue of the Americas, NYC| 9                | 20 years    | 440,000 ft²   | • Replacement of tenant-side HVAC systems  
• Controls  
• Energy management system  
• High-efficiency LED lighting  
• Day-lighting  
• ENERGY STAR® equipment  
• IT and plug load management equipment  
• Optimized after hours space usage | • Investment of $400,000 was required to achieve the savings listed above  
• Payback time for investment: 1 year  
• Expected discounted ROI over the 20-year lease term: 1.14%  
• Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR): 16% per year | 39%             | $7.7 million in estimated savings over the 20-year lease term | $390,000                                | • $3.4 million in savings from more efficient plant and equipment  
• $2.5 million in savings from process and control improvements  
• $1.8 million in savings dependent on making changes to the workplace culture and/or end-user behavior |
| **Paul Hastings LLP**| 200 Park Avenue, NYC            | 4                | 16 years    | 190,914 ft²   | • High-efficiency LED lighting  
• Replacement of tenant-side HVAC systems  
• Supplemental tenant air conditioning units  
• IT and plug load management equipment | • Investment of approximately $270,000 was required to achieve the savings listed above  
• Payback time for investment: Approximately 11 months  
• Expected discounted ROI over the 16-year lease term: 1.07%  
• Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR): 19.3% per year | 46%             | $4.3 million in estimated savings over the 16-year lease term | $270,000                                | • $2.5 million from plant and equipment upgrades  
• $700,000 in savings from process and control improvements  
• $1.2 million in savings from changes to workplace culture and/or end-user behavior |
| **Reed Smith LLP**   | 1717 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA| 6                | 16 years    | 117,000 ft²   | • Dimmable switching controls  
• Energy-efficient lighting design  
• Daylight harvesting controls  
• Energy Star Equipment  
• Plug load management  
• Bi-Level lighting controls | • Investment of $153,058 is required to achieve the savings listed above  
• Payback time for investment (with incentives): 2.2 years  
• Expected discounted ROI over the 16-year lease term: 410%  
• Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR): 57% per year | 44.5%           | $1,126,498 million in estimated savings over the 16-year lease term | $70,406                                 | • $2.5 million from plant and equipment upgrades  
• $700,000 in savings from process and control improvements  
• $1.2 million in savings from changes to workplace culture and/or end-user behavior |

Make your leased space energy efficient.  
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