

Kaiser Permanente

2013 ENERGY CHAMPION - HEALTHCARE



“Our work in energy efficiency is really a collective effort. From the Kaiser team regionally and locally, to SDG&E, to our vendors, everyone has stepped up to get the job done and save energy.”

BOB CROWL,
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES OPERATIONS,
KAISER PERMANENTE
SAN DIEGO

As an environmental steward, Kaiser Permanente has made a significant and visible commitment to renewable energy through PV installations at both its La Mesa Medical Office and San Diego Medical Center parking structures.

Annual Savings: 1,500,327 kWh; 6,764 therms
SDG&E® Incentives: \$188,335

Highlights

- Rooftop photovoltaics
- 300 kW fuel cell
- LED and high-efficiency lighting upgrades
- Vending machine sensors
- Constant to variable air volume HVAC conversion
- Integrated HVAC controls

A healthy dose of energy efficiency

Efficiency and effectiveness are hallmarks of the care Kaiser Permanente provides its members. The company also applies these values to its facilities. Kaiser has committed to an annual reduction in energy consumption and carbon footprint for both environmental and economic reasons. According to Bob Crowl, Director of Facilities Operations for Kaiser Permanente San Diego, “Across the entire organization, the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% and energy intensity (kBtu/sf) by 20% by 2020.” In San Diego, Kaiser has made great strides in reaching these sustainability goals through its work with SDG&E®. As the organization updates its facilities, it continues to take advantage of programs like SDG&E Energy Efficiency Business Rebates (EEBR) to green its operations.

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About Kaiser Permanente

Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans serving more than nine million members. The company is dedicated to improving the health of its members and the communities it serves by creating safe, healthy environments and providing care and coverage for all. From the use of prepaid health plans and physician group practices to organizing its delivery system so it offers as many services as possible under one roof, the company has created a model for outstanding care.

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A prescription for sustainability and conservation

Renewable energy has been a major focus for reducing use at Kaiser Permanente. Building on the success of its 1 MW photovoltaic installation at the La Mesa Medical Office, a new system was added to the parking structure at the San Diego Medical Center in 2012. Kaiser also installed a 300 kW fuel cell at its San Marcos Medical Office building. All of the energy generated by these installations is consumed onsite.

Participation in the SDG&E Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) program was another of Kaiser's energy-saving strategies. During peak events, the company reduced lighting use and increased temperature set points in facilities. For future peak events, Kaiser plans to continue voluntarily reducing its use in ways that do not impact patient care.

A HEEP of help

To identify new energy reduction opportunities, Kaiser took advantage of a no-cost audit of its facilities through the SDG&E Healthcare Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP). Explains Brian McCowan, Chief Engineer of Facilities Operations for Kaiser Permanente San Diego, "We worked with GalexC to evaluate our facilities for potential energy-saving actions. They also brought us new energy strategies and technologies for consideration." As the program coordinator, Willdan Energy Solutions managed the administrative aspects of the incentive and rebate programs. Kaiser was able to use the SDG&E On-Bill Financing (OBF) program to cost-effectively make these changes. They also qualified for \$188,335 in SDG&E incentives.

Based on the audits, Kaiser implemented retrofits in a number of its facilities in 2012 that resulted in new annual savings of 1,500,327 kWh and 6,764 therms. This included upgrading interior and exterior lighting to LEDs, updating from 32W T8 lamps to 25W high-efficiency lamps and ballasts, and adding

sensors to vending machines that power them down when the surrounding area is vacant. Kaiser also converted HVAC units from constant air volume (CAV) to variable air volume (VAV), integrated controls to take advantage of outside air temperatures, and added demand control ventilation and demand response capabilities to HVAC units. The team began exploring scheduling equipment operation to match occupancy by adjusting temperatures and exhaust fans, and expects to expand this to boiler operations.

Checking up on energy-efficiency readiness

Educating its staff about the latest energy-efficiency topics is a key strategy at Kaiser Permanente. "Our National Facilities Services organization is very involved in our energy program, providing funding and resources to educate our local energy managers," adds David McIntosh, Operations Manager for Kaiser Permanente San Diego. The company sponsors classes for energy managers, offers extensive training for technicians, and also regularly sends its staff to SDG&E workshops.

Strong staff support is critical as the team plans to move forward with the comprehensive list of energy-efficiency opportunities developed in its analysis, including chilled water optimization controls, transitioning pole lighting to induction options, and replacing fan motors with electronically commutated motors (ECMs). Erika Schimmel, SDG&E Account Executive sees this as key to the company's success, "Kaiser is very willing to listen to different opportunities and receptive to discussing new options. Their strong corporate goals really do lead to powerful local action."

For more information

To learn which SDG&E program is right for your business, contact your SDG&E Account Executive, call the Energy Savings Center at: **1-800-644-6133** or email businessenergysavings@sdge.com.

These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by SDG&E® under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Rebates and incentives are provided on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are no longer available.

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