Fairford Energy help Torbay Council to cut their car park lighting bill by a third

Fairford Energy was recently approached by Torbay Council to help reduce the carbon footprint of their council run car parks.

After a brief trial of the Light Eco lighting controller in another council location Fairford were asked to survey and produce an ROI calculation for the Lower Union Lane Car Park in Torquay. The car park consists of 7 floors of a mixture of SON lamps and fluorescent T8 lamps. The survey showed a need for 10 Light Eco HID and 2 Light Eco 4.8 units.

The return on investment calculation gave a payback of 24 months; this was based on an average saving of 27% which is the minimum Fairford would expect to encounter. Based on this calculation the council decided to roll out the technology throughout the car park. Fairford sourced a local electrical installation company to install the units to the standard they require. Havills Electrical Services was chosen and completed the installation to a very high standard.

The final job was to verify the savings, Gary May, Havills Contract Manager, undertook an after installation survey and found the actual savings were an average of 33%. This brings the ROI to well below the original 24 months.

Based on Torbay experience with this installation they have decided to roll this out to more car parks and the next survey is already underway.

Torbay Council Cabinet Member for Community Services, Councillor David Butt, said: "We are committed to reduce our carbon footprint, and we are leading by example by exploring cost effective ways to reduce energy whilst maintaining a high level of service. I am especially please that we were able to use the skills of a local company to carry out this work; as we role the program across further car parks I would hope to see this continue"

"The Light Eco units are proving to be worth their weight. We have already seen better than expected savings on the electricity consumption of around 33% on the affected areas of the car park. We are now looking at other potential sites for the units, as they offer a less disruptive and in many cases more economical way to save on lighting energy consumption than say converting lamps, or changing fittings. We were able to trial the units in a car park prior to installing them, and so this gave us an opportunity to see them in action before implementing such a project" Fran Bullock - Torbay Council Carbon Reduction Officer.

The Light Eco Plus works by reducing the supply voltage to the lighting circuits by 15% this gives a minimum saving of 25%. This reduction gives a return on investment of often less than 2 years and saves on average 1 - 2 tonnes of CO_2.

For more information about the Light Eco Plus or other energy saving technologies please contact Fairford Electronics Ltd.

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