

Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center

At a glance

Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center

Walla Walla, Washington

Projects:

Incentives help Marcus Whitman make heating system improvements

Annual energy savings:

\$1,390 (26,580 kwh/year)

Project cost:

\$5,610 before incentives

\$1,950 incentive payments

\$3,660 after incentives

Simple payback:

4.1 years before incentives

2.7 years after incentives

Other benefits:

- Reduced water flow noise in guest room heaters
- Reduced operating costs

Energy consultant:

Doyle Electric



Marcus Whitman Hotel cut costs and enhanced the guest experience by improving energy efficiency. Pictured from left are Bill Clemens, Pacific Power regional community manager, and Mike Lemke, director of engineering at Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center.

Energy savings checks in to historic hotel

From the moment its doors opened in 1928, the Marcus Whitman Hotel aimed to offer a one-of-a-kind experience.

For instance, it was the only hotel at the time to use the same system for heating and cooling its guest rooms.

With this time-tested idea of first-class comfort and a modern view of energy efficiency in mind, the facility's management fine-tuned the historic downtown Walla Walla, Washington, property's HVAC equipment.

"A big benefit along with the energy savings is the improvement in guest experience – controlling the water pressure has reduced the water flow noise in the guest room heaters."

Mike Lemke

Director of Engineering
Marcus Whitman Hotel and
Conference Center

Adding control

When new owners renovated the

property in the early 2000s, all its major systems were upgraded. However, on the heating side of the facility's four-pipe HVAC system, the water flow was not well controlled.

"It was all done mechanically with throttling valves," said Mike Lemke, the Marcus Whitman's director of engineering, "We had two large pumps running wide open at times." Not only did this create high water pressure within the system, the pumps were using more electricity than necessary.

continued



Pictured from left are Mike Lemke, director of engineering at Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center and Bill Clemens, Pacific Power regional community manager.

To solve the issue, Doyle Electric, the hotel's electrical contractor and a Pacific Power wattsmart® Business vendor, recommended using the utility's wattsmart Business program incentives to help pay for adding variable frequency drives on the system's water pumps.

VFDs are electronic controls that regulate motor speed and torque, resulting in reduced energy consumption. When the pumps do not need to run at full speed, the VFDs make the adjustment.

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Savings

Marcus Whitman Hotel's energy efficiency project received \$1,950 in Pacific Power incentives to help with upgrade costs. The VFDs are saving the Walla Walla landmark approximately 26,580 kilowatt-hours in electricity and \$1,390 in energy costs annually, reducing the simple payback for the project from about 4 years to 2.7 years.

About Pacific Power's **wattsmart** programs

Pacific Power offers a variety of options to help our commercial, industrial and agricultural customers in Washington and California build energy efficiency into new construction and retrofit projects. The wattsmart programs offer technical expertise and cash incentives for lighting, HVAC, industrial processes and more.

Let us help you get started

For more information on how we can assist your facility:

- Visit **bewattsmart.com** and inquire online.
- Email **wattsmartbusiness@pacificpower.net**.
- Call us toll free at **1-800-222-4335**.

Because there are requirements to qualify for an incentive, it is important to call us **before** you start your project.

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Let's turn the answers on.