

Quick change to energy savings

A new lighting product makes saving energy as easy as changing a fluorescent tube.

In Australia, and indeed the rest of the world, building owners, consultants and electricians are being encouraged to use energy saving luminaires and lighting devices in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the drain on our energy production facilities (which go hand in hand) and deliver cost savings to building occupiers.

One Australian company doing its bit is Ilum-a-Lite. Many contractors may have come across the company in the past through its Light Eco product, which has been in the market successfully for a number of years now.

However, its new product is even simpler yet equally as efficient. It converts a standard T8 fitting into one that allows you to install a T5 fluorescent tube. Called Save It Easy® it takes just one minute to

retrofit (the time it takes to remove and replace a fluoro tube!)

"The savings come from the technology that's contained in the electronic ballast which is attached to the tube," explains Ilum-a-Lite's Terry Kanellos. "The unit is designed so that it fits straight into an existing T8 lighting fitting. It's wiring free and reduces running costs by up to 35%, or a massive 44% when converting 58W tubes, which is especially attractive to office and warehouse clients with large banks of fluoros."

"We find the light produced by the Save It Easy system is better quality and flicker free because of the lamps' electronic ballast instead of a magnetic one.

"And we are developing a patented double unit which will deliver the same energy and cost savings.

"All our lamps comply with current safety and EMC requirements," he says.

Terry says the patented design is proving to be extremely popular with everyone who has seen the simple demonstration at trade shows and exhibitions.

"People who have seen the demo agree that the new lamps are definitely brighter and are impressed by how easy it is to upgrade an entire office, just by replacing the lamps. It's certainly the cheapest way to retrofit an office with energy saving lighting and definitely much quicker and less disruptive than ripping out all the old fixtures, rewiring the new ones, re-connecting the power, etc.

"Save It Easy lamps can be installed with a minimum of fuss during a maintenance visit, an office relocation, practically anytime a client wants to start saving money on their lighting bill.

"Plus we all know creating fewer

greenhouse gas emissions is good for everyone," Terry says.

Based in Sydney, Ilum-a-Lite is no stranger to the electrical industry. It's flagship product, the Light Eco has enjoyed more than 40,000 installations worldwide.

Light Eco reduces the amount of power used by fluorescent, high bay and discharge lighting by up to 30% with a minimal effect on light level.

"Most people can't pick any noticeable difference when the Light Eco kicks in," Terry explains.

"But they can see the cost savings. We can cut up to 30% off their power bills which allows the client to get a payback on the cost of the unit in around 12-18 months, based on an average kW/hr price of 10c."

And with the kW/hr price set to rise, the ROI could be even sooner in some cases.

Light Eco uses an autotransformer to switch from normal to economy voltage. After a start-up period in which the lights are struck using a normal voltage supply, the unit switches automatically to a reduced voltage. The drop in current is dependent on the age and type of the fittings.

"We have documented cases which show that 20 fully-loaded Light Ecos situated in a factory where 1400 tubes are 'on' for 20 hours a day will save around \$5000 annually on the company's electricity bill," says Terry.

Light Eco is designed for retrofitting into existing installations, no modifications are required to existing light fittings. The unit is simply wired into the electrical circuit, before or after the light switches and between the power distribution board and lighting load.

It can be mounted vertically, horizontally



Some installations of Save It Easy® have shown savings of around \$5000 annually on a company's electricity bill, says Ilum-a-Lite's Terry Kanellos.

or hung from the false ceiling hangers and one person can complete an installation within 30 minutes, making downtime and disruption almost non-existent.

"There is no limit to the amount of units that can be installed. Each unit can adequately service from 20 to 80 lamps, depending on the size specified and the lighting circuits.

Light Eco can be supplied with an optional external control interface allowing

customers to select normal operation (energy saving) or override normal operation (full power mode). This feature can be supplied as an externally mounted switch on the Light Eco or as a switch interface for other devices, detectors or building management systems (BMS).

Installations have been conducted at:

- Sydney Opera House
- Royal Perth Hospital
- Brisbane Airport
- Franklins
- Commonwealth Bank
- Department of Defence
- Billa Supermarkets (Europe)

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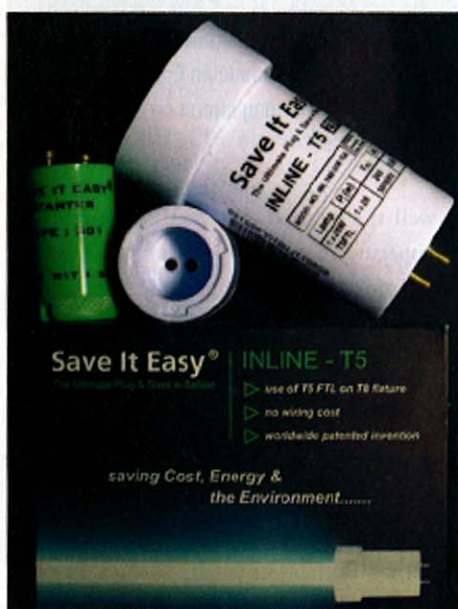
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