

Partnership with PG&E Improves Energy Performance

For over two years, Facilities Management, through a partnership with PG&E, has evaluated the level of mechanical system performance in dozens of buildings on campus. Any existing problems with the current systems are corrected and monitored to ensure optimum performance. To date Facilities Management has received \$2 million in grants from PG&E for mechanical system improvements.

One of these projects involved the chiller in the Life Sciences Addition which was old and in constant need of maintenance. Freddy Torres, Inspector Planner Estimator (IPE) for the Refrigeration Shop, and Mark Nicholas, Energy Projects Manager for Building Maintenance Services, figured out a better plan.

Rather than spend another \$28K upgrading a dated system whose days were numbered, they assessed investing in a new chiller with environmental benefits including the use of eco-friendly refrigerants. In addition, the energy savings from this new chiller are so great, approximately 60% better than the old chiller, it is eligible for over \$100K in funding from PG&E.

Facilities Management will continue to take advantage of this and other PG&E incentive programs to update campus lighting controls, improve the energy efficiency of our greenhouses, upgrade individual-building boiler systems, optimize our “cool roof” systems and explore solar energy opportunities.



This chiller, located in the basement of the Life Sciences Addition, utilizes the same technology as Europe's Bullet Train—none of its parts touch one another. This means no friction, no wear-and-tear, and, best of all, no oil! This chiller not only conserves energy and natural resources, it eliminates the need for waste oil disposal.