

PECO Videoconferencing Facility and PL Compact Fluorescent Lamps

A • C A S E • S T U D Y

PECO Energy Company puts its best face forward with Philips PL compact fluorescent lamps at the new Videoconferencing and Education Center in Philadelphia, PA. The electric utility's latest showcase of energy-efficient technology takes full advantage of the flattering color and seamless dimming capabilities of PL-T and PL-L lamps in a state-of-the-art facility.

Videoconferencing provides "face-to-face" communications for PECO Energy personnel and guests without the time, trouble, and expense of long-distance travel. Participants' on-screen appearance is absolutely key to a successful videoconference. Facility designers and technicians work hard to make conferees forget that their colleagues "across the table" are actually thousands of miles away.

"We set the standard very high," said Tim Smith, Project Manager for PECO Energy. "We wanted to project a world-class image to others at the receiving end. We wanted a clear, crisp picture without any glare or shadows on anybody's face." Other potential lighting concerns included heat, reflected glare off the video viewscreens, and proper maintenance.

To meet these challenges, 40W PL-L Rapid Start Compact Fluorescent Lamps in a 3000K color temperature were selected by Lighting Designer Patricia Pitzer, Principal of illum Creatif, and the audiovisual team from Walsh-Lowe & Associates. "We needed to go with this warmer technology so that skin tones were flattered," Pitzer said. "And when this group saw the input on the camera, they agreed that the 3000K lamps were a good choice." The color rendering index of 82 guarantees that all colors seen by the camera (and by the eye) are well rendered. With a rated average life of 20,000 hours, PL-L compact fluorescents ensure low maintenance costs.

Pitzer incorporated an electronic dimming and control system into her careful lighting design to make the facility's lighting effects flexible, easy to use, and easy to maintain. A simple LCD touchscreen allows videoconferees to orchestrate preset dimmed lighting effects with a single touch. One hundred and twenty-six electronically controlled PL-Ls provide flexible, attractive lighting in the Center's four training rooms, as well.



"We wanted to project a world-class image."

*– Tim Smith
Project Manager
PECO Energy Company*

Let's make things better.



PHILIPS

Philips Lighting Meets the Challenge

Compact fluorescent dimming offers many advantages over incandescent. At full power, PL-Ls produce at least four times as much light per watt as incandescents. When dimmed, that ratio increases dramatically. Far less heat is produced, making the small Videoconferencing Room more comfortable for employees and guests.

PL-L technology lends flicker-free illumination and excellent color stability while the lamps dim down from 100% to 1%. "I watched the projection of the video on the screen as the lights were dimming down, and skin tones remained consistent in the camera, which is something you really have to look at," according to Pitzer.

The fine millwork, finishes, and furnishings in other areas of the facility are set off by Philips PL-T 4-Pin Compact Fluorescent Lamps in downlights. These triple-tubes, also in 3000K, are further warmed by wheat-colored cones in the downlights. According to Pitzer, these CFLs are indistinguishable from incandescents. "Because we had some incandescent accent lighting (in the same areas), we wanted everything to mix very well. We didn't want a noticeable difference in sources." PL-Ts offer similar energy-efficiency and maintenance advantages, producing up to 75 LPW over their 10,000 hour life.

"The lighting throughout the center is very appealing, as well as being functional," concluded Smith. "As an energy producer, we have to demonstrate to our customers that we're also conserving energy."

"Videoconferencing is the wave of the future," declared Pitzer, who has designed lighting for several such spaces. "It's not just the big corporations anymore. Videoconferencing can be done anywhere from a desktop to a full facility like this one. The technology is expanding rapidly because it is a way to save time, energy, and money. If your facility is designed correctly and if the lighting's right, it's as though you're in the same room."



**Philips Pin-based
Compact Fluorescent Lamps**

Benefits of PL Technology

- *Energy efficiency—up to 89 lamp lumens per watt (compared to 19 LPW for a comparable incandescent application*)*
- *Long life for low maintenance*
- *82 CRI in several color temperatures*
- *Dimming available on PL-T and PL-L (both are four-pin lamps)*
- *Stable color throughout the dimming range*

*40W PL-L compared to 200W incandescent

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