



OPEN SPACES
 Adobe helped to fund a public park abutting its campus, as well as local trails and gardens.

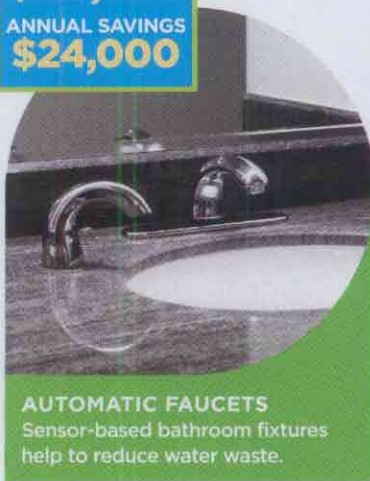
The Greenest Office in America

Adobe has turned its headquarters into a towering example of environmentalism—and is saving millions of dollars in the process. **BY JEFF NACHTIGAL**

AN EMPLOYEE AT ADOBE SYSTEMS e-mailed Randy Knox III in April, wondering if the individual coffee creamers in company break rooms were more wasteful than one big container. For Knox, Adobe's director of real estate, facilities, and security, the tiny detail warranted immediate action. Adobe is now conducting research to determine which type of containers will produce the least waste. "With the help of 5,500 employees, we manage to find these kinds of things," Knox says.

The coffee creamers are just one example of the massive enviro-friendly overhaul under way at Adobe. In June the \$2 billion software maker became the first company to receive a platinum award from the nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council under its current Leadership

COST
\$110,000
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$24,000



AUTOMATIC FAUCETS
 Sensor-based bathroom fixtures help to reduce water waste.

COST
\$35,374
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$14,896



WATERLESS URINALS
 The toilets use nontoxic chemicals in lieu of flushing.

WHAT WORKS

in Energy and Environmental Design standards. (An Environmental Protection Agency building was rated platinum under the pilot program.) That makes Adobe's San Jose headquarters the greenest corporate building on record in the United States. Even more impressive is that Adobe earned the honor by retrofitting its existing office towers (about 1 million square feet); most of the 151 buildings that have received the council's gold rating are new structures. By installing everything from motion detectors to waterless urinals, Adobe has reduced its electricity use by 35 percent and its gas consumption by 41 percent since 2001, at the same time that its headcount has swelled 80 percent. More important, Adobe is proving that building green isn't just good corporate citizenship; it's plain good business. To date, the company has invested about \$1.1 million in 45 energy-efficiency projects, yielding nearly \$1 million in annual savings, including about \$350,000 in energy rebates. "This isn't some pie-in-the-sky kind of thing the enviros are pushing," Knox says. "It really works." The featured examples demonstrate how Adobe saved green by going green. ■

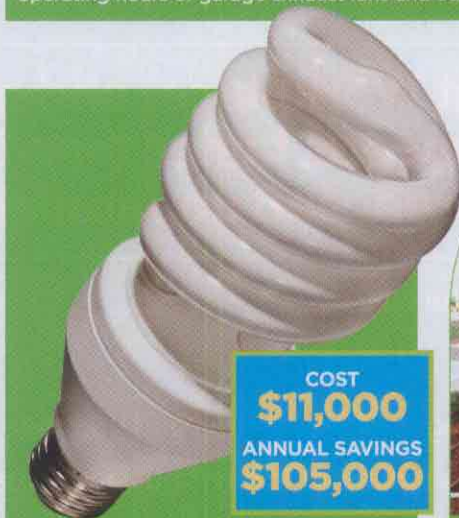
Jeff Nachtigal is a writer based in Bakersfield, Calif.



COST
\$150
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$68,000

TIMED OUTAGES

Adobe's simplest—and by far the cheapest—energy-saving solution was to reduce the operating hours of garage exhaust fans and outdoor lighting systems.



COST
\$11,000
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$105,000

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

Adobe replaced incandescent bulbs throughout its offices with energy-efficient compact fluorescents.



COST
\$3,610
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$10,000

AUTOMATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM

The campus's Internet-based watering system adjusts flow according to incoming weather data.



GREEN CLEANERS

All toxic janitorial supplies have been replaced with earth-friendly products.



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Adobe offers secure bike parking and an \$80 monthly subsidy to employees who don't drive to work.



COST
\$89,831
ANNUAL SAVINGS
\$24,425

MOTION SENSORS

Electronic devices in stairwells and freight alcoves make sure lights are turned on only when needed.



COMPOSTING

By the end of 2006, all workers will have containers that hook onto trash cans to separate food waste from regular garbage.