

Overview

A versatile lighting management system from Greengate is helping the City of London KPMG Academy in Hackney, East London reduce its energy consumption and carbon footprint. The inherent flexibility of the system has also enabled the school managers to fine tune the initial design in the light of experience once the building was occupied.

Opened by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the Academy has been recognised in many awards programmes and was winner of the New Build Project in the CIBSE Low Carbon Performance Awards 2010, This was in recognition of the sustainable learning environment that has been created.



Installed by MJN Colston, the lighting management system takes advantage of an architectural design that maximises natural daylight, ensuring that lighting is automatically switched off when daylight levels are sufficient. This is combined with occupancy control so that lighting is switched off after a predetermined time once areas such as classrooms, offices and toilets have been vacated.

Circulation spaces with high daylight levels have been designed to maximise 'solar harvesting'. Here, The Greengate system ensures that when these spaces are unoccupied, and light levels are above a pre-defined level, the electric lighting is switched off.

A major factor in the choice of Greengate controls was their ease of re-configuration, as MJN Colston's Doug Pugh explained: "As the building was unoccupied at the time of the build it was important that the lighting could be reconfigured easily once pupils and staff were using the building. Greengate was one of a number of controls manufacturers specified and we selected their system as it offered the necessary flexibility at a sensible price.

"For instance, since handover the school has asked for the time delay on occupancy sensors to be reduced in certain areas, so that lighting is switched off sooner. Greengate engineers were able to carry out these and other changes from a laptop without any disruption to the school's occupants," he continued.

As well as meeting the needs of its pupils, the Academy will be making a number of its facilities available to the wider community. Consequently the lighting management system has been designed to enable specific areas and connecting circulation spaces to remain lit while lighting in other areas is off.

The Greengate lighting management system comprises a combination of area controllers, lighting control modules and a range of sensors.

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