

VENSTAR'S SURVEYOR HELPS LEARNING CARE GROUP REDUCE ENERGY COSTS BY 25 PERCENT

CHALLENGE:

Reduce Energy Consumption While Maintaining Comfort and Control

With 900 school campuses, Learning Care Group Inc. (LCG) is the second-largest for-profit childcare provider in North America and is a leader in early education for children aged six weeks to 12 years old. LCG's eight unique brands include La Petite Academy, Childtime, Tutor Time, The Children's Courtyard, Montessori Unlimited, Everbrook Academy, Creative Kids Learning Center and Pathways Learning Academy.

Responsible for the HVAC management, John McNiff, senior director of Procurement and Category Management, was challenged with finding an energy management system to meet the company's sustainability goals and cost-saving initiatives.

Energy management objectives included:

- Remotely monitor and control HVAC and lighting
- Reduce energy usage and costs by improving energy efficiency and sustainability
- Maintain the health of the HVAC equipment
- Enact effective monitoring and reporting processes



“With Venstar’s Surveyor, we cut our energy costs by 25 percent while setting a good example of sustainability for our students.”

— John McNiff,

*Senior Director of Procurement and Category Management
Learning Care Group Inc.*



About

SURVEYOR™ ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small- to medium-box retailers 25-35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO₂ emissions.

Surveyor empowers retailers and other multi-location businesses to remotely monitor manage and control their energy usage while reducing maintenance expenses. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 30,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada and Mexico. Surveyor gives users unprecedented visibility and control of their locations.

SOLUTION:

Venstar's Surveyor Energy Management System

McNiff chose Venstar's Surveyor® as it is the leader in multi-site energy management and is able to provide remote monitoring and control of HVAC equipment and lighting with proven reduction in energy usage.

Surveyor is compatible with leading manufacturers' HVAC equipment, which is very beneficial for multi-site companies that have a variety of brands.

LCG's energy management deployment consists of Surveyor controls and sensors installed in each HVAC unit to monitor its efficiency and ensure its viability. The average campus is 8,000 square feet and typically has 4-6 HVAC units. Surveyor manages the HVAC systems to control indoor comfort and efficiency. Lighting control panels independently control interior and exterior lighting zones.

A highly secure Internet gateway transmits data from each school's equipment controls and sensors to the corporate data center for remotely management via the Surveyor website.

RESULTS:

25 Percent Cost Reduction in Energy Used

Venstar's Surveyor delivers a consistent 25 percent reduction in energy usage and related costs. It also delivers a 3 percent reduction in maintenance costs for the schools.

Surveyor's benefits include:

- Visual reporting with live weather feed for consistent energy management
- Remote monitoring and control using the Surveyor website
- Fast-and-easy installation and set-up
- Consistent energy management and indoor comfort
- Global changes to simultaneously modify all locations
- Customized daily exception reports
- Emergency alerts that enable remote troubleshooting and fewer truck dispatches, reducing HVAC repair and maintenance costs
- Capability to participate in utility demand-response programs for best rates
- Ability for third-party service providers to also utilize Surveyor to manage both energy and lighting



*John McNiff
Senior Director of Procurement
and Category Management,
Learning Care Group Inc.*



Kristyn Hamilton, Facilities Coordinator, Learning Care Group

“Our Venstar energy management system gives us unprecedented visibility into and control of the energy usage at our schools.”

*– Kristyn Hamilton, Facilities Coordinator
Learning Care Group*

When LCG had to temporarily close schools due to COVID-19, McNiff's team was easily able to remotely change select schools' thermostats and lighting control panels to unoccupied settings to contain energy costs and avoid wasting energy.

Partnering with Venstar has given LCG's team the ability to meet return-on-investment goals. Working with utilities on rebates and incentives helped further reduce the overall investment.

About Venstar

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading energy management solutions provider and one of the largest thermostat suppliers with more than 10 million thermostats installed worldwide. Venstar designs and produces Venstar-branded products as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar Wi-Fi® thermostats can be remotely controlled using Skyport® Cloud Services web or mobile applications.

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