



Lighting controls help address peak demand

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During the last few weeks, the tri-state electric grid has been under constant strain. The extreme heat has pressured Con Ed into lowering voltage in certain neighborhoods. Peak loads have to be controlled or lowered by Demand Response programs. Lighting is a component that drives the peak demand and is also easy to control and lower.

Commercial buildings can control demand and keep comfort by using daylight controls and occupancy sensors. Lighting controls deliver the right amount of light when needed, where needed. These systems can be as simple as a dimmer or relay and can be as advanced as an entire lighting system controlled by a BMS. Lighting controls can become a way to help schedule hours for employees and cleaning crews. Lighting levels can be lower during night time hours.

Knowing how the lighted space is being used is critical. Do people come and go? Do people stay late? Matching the application and the system is very important to proper performance.

Commercial owners can receive rebates from Con Ed for lighting controls and efficient lighting. Some programs will give a rebate for a years' worth of projected energy savings and demand reductions.

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