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Quality Hyundai completes energy efficiency makeover with Energize Connecticut

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Energy saving and sustainability strategies are often at the forefront for businesses striving to remain competitive and provide value for their customers - and for their communities. Quality Hyundai, recognized with an Energy Efficiency Leadership Award last month, understands the importance and is investing in its future through energy efficiency upgrades and improvements.

The New Haven, Conn., auto dealership recently completed the transformation of a former U.S. Post Office processing center into a state-of-the-art show room and service center. To ensure a seamless integration of energy efficiency measures, Quality Hyundai worked with The United Illuminating Company, an administrator of Energize Connecticut programs, from the start of the project. Utilizing software to evaluate whole-building energy performance, the utility company analyzed energy usage and provided custom efficiency solutions throughout the entire design process.

As an authority on energy efficiency, we have unique expertise and resources to help businesses looking to achieve optimal efficiency and financial savings. Our hands-on approach puts us on the frontline, working directly with our customers to determine how to best improve their energy performance.

Supported by the state's Energy Conscious Blueprint program, the Quality Hyundai gut renovation project incorporated a variety of energy efficiency upgrades, including installation of interior and exterior LED lighting, a high-efficiency HVAC system, heaters fueled by recycled motor oil and large capacity fans for cooling. A prismatic rooftop lens was incorporated into the design to help capture and utilize natural light, reducing overall electricity use. In addition, low-emissivity glass and heavy insulation were used throughout the framing system, substantially improving the climate control of the 24,000 s/f car dealership.

"Our long-term strategic vision prioritizes a commitment to smart, clean energy and efficiency," said Joe Blichfeldt Sr., Quality Hyundai owner. "As a world-class dealership, we want to give our customers the best possible experience while serving as responsible environmental stewards in our community."

Not only do the electric and thermal upgrades exceed code energy performance requirements by a combined 30%, but they also generate an estimated \$20,790 saved on energy costs annually. To help offset project costs, Quality Hyundai received \$57,500 in incentive payments made available through the Energize Connecticut initiative. United Illuminating works closely with all contractors involved in Energize Connecticut initiatives from inception through project end to produce the best possible outcomes for customers.

"Working together with UI, Pat Munger Construction Company presented a totally integrated energy conscious blueprint that enabled us to identify and take advantage of various programs previously unknown to us and provided a coordinated path to achieving the goal of operational efficiency," said

Blichfeldt.

Quality Hyundai also installed more than 500 rooftop solar panels, making it the area's first auto dealership to be powered entirely by solar energy. The system will generate 146,000 kWh annually, powering the facility and eliminating 3,000 tons of CO2 greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project.

Information on Connecticut's energy efficiency programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com.

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