EcoStruxure Building Solution helps to create and maintain an environment where people connect to animals.

John G. Shedd Aquarium – Chicago, Illinois, U.S.

EcoStruxure™ Building Solution helps to create and maintain an environment where people connect to animals.
Shedd Aquarium named Schneider Electric as an energy management partner in 2013 based on the company’s expertise in end-to-end environmental control, solar solutions, and a full array of integrated energy management solutions.

Introduction

The Shedd Aquarium first opened its doors to visitors in 1930. Today almost 2 million guests visit this national historic landmark annually.

The aquatic environments in the original aquarium contain more than 1.5 million gallons of water, including a 90,000-gallon exhibit created in 1971 to reproduce a Caribbean coral reef. Over the years the aquarium has undergone expansions to accommodate other large exhibits, more than doubling its original size to cover 422,000 square feet.

In 1991, Shedd Aquarium expanded to recreate a Pacific Northwest coastal environment. Known today as the Abbott Oceanarium, this 170,000-square-foot exhibit holds 3 million gallons of water and features everything from beluga whales and Pacific white-sided dolphins to sea otters and sea lions. It is also the largest indoor marine mammal facility in the world.

A 2003 expansion houses the 27,000-square-foot Wild Reef, which holds more than 570,000 gallons of water. Built in an underground wing of the aquarium, this exhibit recreates a Philippine coral reef to allow visitors to enjoy the most diverse underwater ecosystem in the world.

A facility this size has multiple challenges with regard to energy use in maintaining diverse environments for visitors, staff, and more than 32,500 aquatic animals. In 2013, decision-makers committed to an ambitious goal of cutting the aquarium’s energy consumption in half by 2020. This commitment to sustainability extends into every part of Shedd Aquarium — from water-conserving exhibits and energy-efficient lighting to green gardens and the food its inhabitants eat.

Goal

Cut energy consumption in half by 2020, saving enough energy to power 750 homes annually.

Story

Leverage existing building management system, sensors, and meters to push data points to EcoStruxure™ Building Advisor every five minutes, automatically pinpointing root cause of problems and identifying energy cost-avoidance opportunities daily.

Solution

- EcoStruxure Building Operation
- EcoStruxure Energy Expert
- VFT Drives
- Turnkey Solar Solution (256kW of solar panels)

Results

- EcoStruxure Building Advisor
  - Pinpoints issues, trends, averages
  - Prioritizes recommendations and suggested actions
  - Assigns dollar value to energy opportunities
  - Tracks and validates energy project metrics
  - Target energy savings of 50% by 2020
Sharing a common vision

Both Shedd Aquarium and Schneider Electric are committed to sustainability. Schneider Electric understands that monitoring-based commissioning (MBCx) is all about fine-tuning systems and equipment to conserve energy. The EcoStruxure™ Building Advisor solution helps achieve that goal by identifying and prioritizing top recommendations for energy conservation, as well as for avoidable energy costs.

The EcoStruxure Building Advisor solution also offered the tools needed to implement a fault detection and diagnostics solution that would comply with Commonwealth Edison's (ComEd's) MBCx criteria, such as monitoring building system performance for at least 18 months while continually identifying and implementing energy-saving improvements within six months of being identified.

After reviewing competitive solutions, Shedd Aquarium decision-makers chose to team with Schneider Electric to achieve their vision for sustainability.

Shedd Aquarium and Schneider Electric had previously collaborated on other sustainability projects, including applying Schneider Electric's code engineering expertise to the aquarium's environmental control system that resulted in cost savings through reduced energy and water use. Schneider Electric had also addressed issues related to security, renewable energy, lighting control, building automation, and energy management.
Following a strategic roadmap

ComEd and Nicor Gas partially funded the aquarium’s MBCx program. (The Schneider Electric EcoStruxure™ Building Advisor relies on MBCx data to provide insight and justification for energy savings and improvements that get to the root cause of energy, comfort, and maintenance issues.)

Shedd Aquarium designed a strategic energy roadmap in partnership with the city of Chicago, the Citizens Utility Board, the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, and the Institute for Sustainable Energy Development to achieve a 50 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2020. The roadmap focuses on identifying and implementing opportunities to improve the efficiency of major electrical and natural gas systems, as well as reducing energy costs without adversely affecting the facility or its system operations.

In 2015, Schneider Electric began leveraging Shedd Aquarium’s existing building management system by installing variable frequency drives and extensive electric submetering.

Today, information from all data points is pushed to the cloud-hosted EcoStruxure Building Advisor every five minutes for systems modeling. Then EcoStruxure Building Advisor pinpoints the root cause of any problems and identifies opportunities for cost avoidance.

“We’re moving from being an energy saver to becoming an energy leader and innovator.”

— Robert P. Wengel, Vice President of Facilities, Shedd Aquarium
Reaping the benefits

EcoStruxure Building Advisor provides Shedd Aquarium with intelligent control, management flexibility, and meaningful analytics. It also gets the right information to the right person at the right time, enabling more informed decision-making.

The EcoStruxure Building Advisor solution identifies energy-saving opportunities and suggests possible causes and specific actions to remedy problems. For example, if EcoStruxure Building Advisor detects a hot water loop temperature that is lower than the recommended threshold for 24 hours, suggested actions may include looking for faulty set points or control calibrations, reducing pump speed, or lowering the hot water supply temperature. EcoStruxure Building Advisor will also determine the dollar value associated with a problem that wastes energy. In addition to having direct connections to submetering points, EcoStruxure Building Advisor has access to ComEd’s Green Button interval energy data.
Schneider Electric and its technology partner, KGS Buildings, have integrated more than 4,500 building management monitoring points at Shedd Aquarium. These monitoring points correspond to HVAC zones, air handling equipment, and extensive heating/cooling systems, including dozens of pumps, fans, heat exchangers, and hot/cold water systems.

Because so many of the energy conservation measures identified by EcoStruxure Building Advisor also comply with ComEd’s incentive program, the aquarium can financially justify the improvements. At the same time, the aquarium is able to consume less energy while helping reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Once the aquarium’s EcoStruxure Building Advisor solution was fully commissioned, ComEd was able to verify compliance with its MBCx criteria and issue a rebate to Shedd Aquarium.

Going forward, Shedd Aquarium will continue to monitor and recommission equipment based on prioritized actions associated with measurable ROI, as well as to receive additional rebates from ComEd to implement and sustain improvements.
IoT-enabled solutions that drive operational and energy efficiency

EcoStruxure is Schneider Electric’s open, interoperable, IoT-enabled system architecture and platform.

EcoStruxure delivers enhanced value around safety, reliability, efficiency, sustainability, and connectivity for our customers.

EcoStruxure leverages advancements in IoT, mobility, sensing, cloud, analytics, and cybersecurity to deliver Innovation at Every Level including Connected Products, Edge Control, and Apps, Analytics & Services. EcoStruxure™ has been deployed in 480,000+ sites, with the support of 20,000+ system integrators and developers, connecting over 1.6 million assets under management through 40+ digital services.

One EcoStruxure architecture, serving 4 End Markets with 6 Domains of Expertise

Connected Products
The Internet of Things starts with the best things. Our IoT-enabled best-in-class connected products include breakers, drives, UPSs, relays, sensors, and more. Devices with embedded intelligence drive better decision-making throughout operations.

Edge Control
Mission-critical scenarios can be unpredictable, so control of devices at the edge of the IoT network is a must. This essential capability provides real-time solutions that enable local control at the edge, protecting safety and uptime.

Apps, Analytics & Services
Interoperability is imperative to supporting the diverse hardware and systems in building, data center, industry, and grid environments. EcoStruxure enables a breadth of agnostic Applications, Analytics, & Services for seamless enterprise integration.

Find out more about EcoStruxure

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Schneider Electric
Boston ONE Campus
800 Federal Street
Andover, MA 01810 USA
Phone: +1 978 794 0800

www.schneider-electric.com

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