

School Districts Save More Than 20 Percent in Energy Costs Thanks to Venstar and Indoor Environment Services

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Saves school districts more than 20 percent in energy costs
- Offers effective alternative to costly energy management systems
- Includes remote Global Changes via Skyport to reduce on-site visits
- Controls thermostats remotely using Skyport Web browser or free mobile app

CHALLENGE:

Find Easy-to-Use, Affordable Thermostat to Reduce Energy Costs

Matt Spence, director of Energy for California-based Indoor Environmental Services (IES), is responsible for selecting energy management solutions and thermostats for school districts. Managing thousands of thermostats at more than 50 school districts, Spence wanted to remotely monitor, control and make global changes across all the thermostats via the district's Wi-Fi® network and also be alerted via email of any HVAC-related issues. He also wanted a thermostat that meets California's stringent Title 24 requirements.

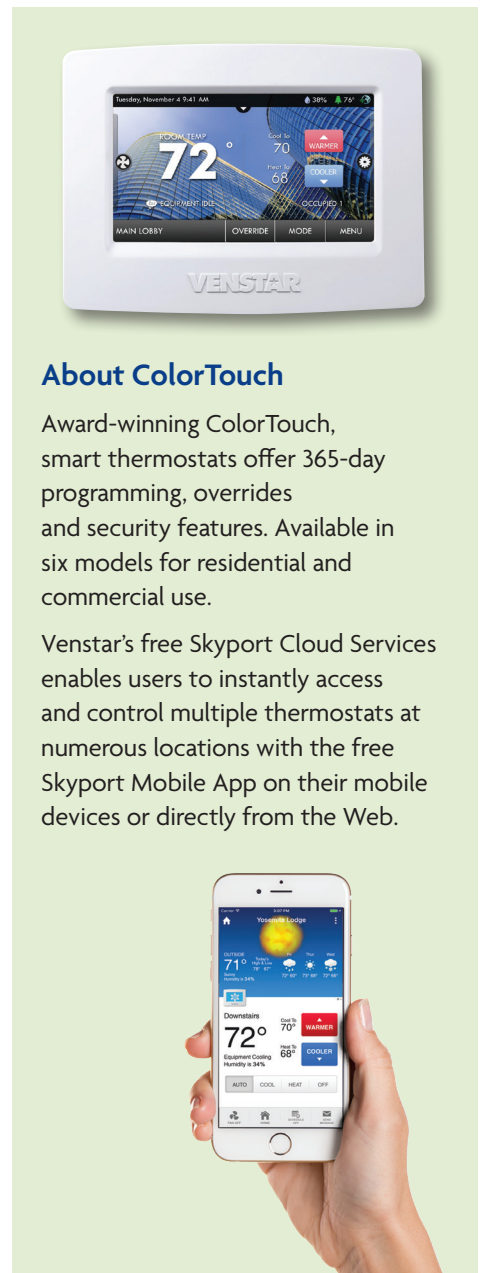
Most of the school districts had basic, non-programmable thermostats, some of which ran the HVAC equipment 24 hours per day, seven days per week with no ability to program weekends or holidays. Anyone could change the temperatures locally on the old thermostats. Not being able to control the energy usage of the old thermostats resulted in unnecessarily high utility bills for the districts.

SOLUTION:

Venstar's Commercial ColorTouch Wi-Fi Thermostat

Spence chose Venstar's commercial ColorTouch® (Model T8850) Wi-Fi connected thermostat as his "thermostat of choice" for school districts, installing 5,600 ColorTouch thermostats at more than 50 school districts while planning installation for more. He selected ColorTouch for its easy-to-use touchscreen. Rebecca Gladden, energy engineer at IES, appreciates its advanced programming capabilities, including morning warm-up and the override feature for after-hours comfort, which makes it perfect for school classrooms.

Gladden's favorite feature is the ability to remotely program and manage the ColorTouch thermostats across all of the schools. Once the thermostats are programmed, the IES team uses Venstar's Skyport® Cloud Services to remotely access and control the ColorTouch thermostats at any of the school districts using Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App.



About ColorTouch

Award-winning ColorTouch, smart thermostats offer 365-day programming, overrides and security features. Available in six models for residential and commercial use.

Venstar's free Skyport Cloud Services enables users to instantly access and control multiple thermostats at numerous locations with the free Skyport Mobile App on their mobile devices or directly from the Web.

Using Skyport, the IES team can instantly make global changes to some or all the thermostats rather than physically spending 10 minutes at each thermostat making programming changes.

The schools' maintenance managers have remote access so they can handle any issues, such as if there are complaints that a classroom is too warm or too cold. The IES team also has remote access to monitor the thermostats.

ColorTouch's override features are essential for classrooms. The override feature lets teachers push a button to keep the system working after hours, such as during parent-teacher conferences and open houses.

On days when school is not in session, the thermostats are set to the unoccupied temperatures. Being able to program the thermostats for 365 days per year helps to ensure that HVAC systems are not running unnecessarily. ColorTouch also has an automatic time change for daylight savings time.

The IES team appreciates ColorTouch's security features, including setpoint limiting. With setpoint limiting, teachers have some flexibility of temperature control within the districts' limits. This helps keep classrooms comfortable while ensuring that the schools' energy management goals are met.

RESULTS:

Reduced Energy Costs by More than 20 Percent While Maintaining Indoor Comfort

To date, IES has installed 5,600 Venstar ColorTouch thermostats at more than 50 school districts in California, with more to come. Installing the ColorTouch thermostats has helped the districts reduce energy costs more than 20 percent.

The ColorTouch thermostats help ensure consistent, comfortable temperatures in all buildings at the school districts, no matter how hot or cold the temperature is outside. Plus, they meet California's stringent Title 24 requirements.

Skyport Cloud Services provide remote access to the thermostats so the IES team can easily access, monitor and program the thermostats from virtually anywhere there's Internet access, including their mobile devices. Using Skyport, the IES team can instantly make global changes to all the thermostats. This saves hundreds of on-site hours.

The thermostats also help to extend the life of the HVAC equipment at the schools and allow the IES team to solve issues before they become real problems. With all these benefits, ColorTouch is IES's thermostat of choice for school districts.

About Indoor Environmental Services (IES)

In business since 1988, California-based Indoor Environmental Services (IES) provides HVAC services to commercial and industrial customers throughout California and Nevada. The company specializes in energy management services for school districts, including solar energy, HVAC services and energy management solutions.



Rebecca Gladden, energy engineer at IES

“Using Venstar’s Skyport to make global changes to thermostats is epic. It saves us hundreds of on-site hours. We couldn’t live without it.”

– Rebecca Gladden, energy engineer
Indoor Environmental Services

About Venstar

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-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 currently controls the energy usage of 30,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

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