



Furnace Creek Resort

The “Jewel of Death Valley,” in its Historic Hideaway, Shines in Saving Energy

Death Valley, the hottest spot in the nation, might be the last place you would find a resort with two hotels, four restaurants, conference facilities, and many other amenities, including – at 214 feet below sea level – the world’s lowest-elevation golf course.

But you can find just that at the historic Furnace Creek Resort, where the Inn at Furnace Creek and the Ranch at Furnace Creek demonstrate that quality, comfort, and conservation can go hand-in-hand.

The Resort’s history of collaboration with us on energy upgrades – “our partnership with SCE and our Account Manager has always been positive,” said Director of Engineering Wayne Badder – plays a key role in protecting the environment.

“We want to be sustainable and not only talk the talk but walk the walk,” added Badder, noting the strong environmental commitment of Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Furnace Creek’s owner and operator. “We put our sustainability practices to work every time we do a remodel and look at the most efficient way to do upgrades.”

Annual Energy Savings: Approximately 584,000 kWh

Project incentives also help the Resort lower its electric bills, creating savings to invest into additional green projects. In recent years, optimal projects have been identified through the third-party Lodging Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP). Incentives have been paid via our Customized Solutions program, geared toward tailored equipment upgrades.

From 2012 through 2015, the Resort received nearly \$71,000 in incentives for several projects, with estimated annual savings of approximately 584,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) obtained through:

- Central plant improvements with a chilled water reset, variable frequency drives, and high-efficiency chillers;
- HVAC upgrades, including air-side control economizers;
- HVAC occupancy thermostats for guest rooms; and
- Building shell enhancements, with 1930s-era window and door replacements that still pay attention to historic detail.

Estimated Savings by Managing Energy

Programs Utilized:

- Customized Solutions
- Third-Party Lodging Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP)
- Demand Bidding Program (DBP)

Results:

Estimated savings
584,000 kWh

Estimated annual savings of approximately 584,000 kWh from 2012 through 2015. Energy Efficiency project incentives of nearly \$71,000 from 2012 through mid-2015. Demand Response bill credits of more than \$3,100 in 2014-2015



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“ We’re taking a step back to see what we can build in as new infrastructure. We want to combine the proper equipment with energy savings. It’s about finding the balance between economic viability and environmental responsibility. ”

*Heather Willis
Sustainability Director
Furnace Creek Resort*

The Resort also is upgrading its wastewater treatment plant with a more efficient biofiltration system expected to provide nearly \$27,000 in additional incentives and 325,000 kWh in yearly savings.

Building on these initiatives, Furnace Creek is focusing on “the little things,” like replacing current lighting with LED fixtures, plus using ENERGY STAR equipment and highly efficient materials for improvements – such as installation of R38 insulation in the previously uninsulated Inn.

Furnace Creek also takes pride in its renewable energy and water conservation efforts. In 2008, the Resort began tapping into Death Valley’s abundant sunshine with a 1-megawatt solar energy system covering four acres. The Resort’s data shows that in 2014, the system generated 2.25 million kWh of power, providing over 30 percent of its energy needs.

And, in this highly arid region, a gravity-fed system allows natural spring water to flow through a reverse-osmosis

filtration plant without needing pumping – also saving energy in the process. The Resort notes that it reuses more than 1 million gallons of water daily for its natural spring-fed pools, the Inn gardens, and irrigation of the golf course – a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary that offers a beautiful bird-watching location.

Two-Year Demand Response Credits: More Than \$3,100

The Resort augments its energy efficiency and other sustainability initiatives through Demand Response (DR) participation. With DR, by reducing energy consumption during peak periods, you relieve stress on the electricity grid, lower energy costs, help the environment, and in turn earn bill credits that help offset your monthly energy charges.

For several years, Furnace Creek has taken part in the no-cost, flexible Demand Bidding Program (DBP). Although its solar energy system creates a lower baseline to reduce load from, the Resort still earned more than \$3,100 in bill credits in 2014-2015 for voluntarily reducing energy use during DBP events.

In recognition of its sustainability leadership, California’s Green Lodging Program certified the Furnace Creek Resort as an “Environmentalist” – the highest level achievable. Clearly, the Resort remains true to its legacy of managing energy and other resources to preserve this special Death Valley desert oasis for generations to come.



To learn more about SCE energy management solutions, ways to reduce your energy usage, and manage your energy costs, visit sce.com/lodging or call your SCE Account Manager.

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