



The University of South Carolina

University Cut Utility Costs by 15% After Implementing a Utility Tracking System

By analyzing consumption, UtilityDirect helps the University of South Carolina reduce its utility bills

When Cecil Sheppard, supervisor of high voltage and utilities for the University of South Carolina (USC), arrived on campus, tracking utility costs and consumption was completed by hand. As the campus grew, Cecil and his team struggled to track consumption across the 10.9 million square feet they were responsible for maintaining. He turned to SchoolDude.com for help upgrading his outdated utility tracking system

Utilizing UtilityDirect from SchoolDude, Cecil has turned the Department of Energy Services into a model for other colleges and universities across the country, effectively and efficiently maintaining USC's utility budget. Cecil's daily use of UtilityDirect allows him to track costs and consumption, identify and evaluate poor performing buildings, replace inefficient machinery, and charge utility costs back to the departments that are consuming energy. "One of our residence halls has a restaurant and a telecommunications hub in the building. With UtilityDirect, we can place a sub-meter on both the restaurant and the telecommunications hub, allowing us to charge food services and the IT department their fair share of the energy costs," Cecil said.

Reports from UtilityDirect provide documentation for billing errors revealed through analyzing USC's bills and accounts with the system. Cecil found fire suppression lines charged for consumption, duplicate sewer charges, and 32 accounts with zero consumption that were charged service fees. As a result, he received \$82,979 in reimbursement for these errors.

USC also utilizes the reporting function within UtilityDirect to educate state legislators on rising utility costs and to justify requests for additional funding. The system enables Cecil's team to quickly and easily create graphs illustrating yearly costs and savings. Within one year of implementing UtilityDirect, USC had a partial realized savings of \$887,979.68, a 15% decrease in the average annual utility bill.

Who they are

CLIENT: The University of South Carolina

LOCATION: Columbia, SC

SIZE: 30,721 students, 212 buildings

SchoolDude products used

UtilityDirect

**\$887,979.68
saved within
one year**