WHAT IS RETROCOMMISSIONING?

Retrocommissioning (RCx) is a systematic process for identifying less-than-optimal performance in an existing facility’s equipment, lighting, control and process systems, and making necessary adjustments to promote energy savings.

Whereas retrofitting involves replacing outdated equipment, RCx focuses on improving the efficiency of what is already in place. Retrocommissioning projects can produce an average savings of 5-15% of total facility energy costs. These upgrades typically pay for themselves in energy savings alone within an average of less than two years.

RCx Program projects are often combined with retrofitting efforts.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Incentives are paid directly to the customer based on achieved annual energy savings at the rate of $0.09/kWh, $1.00/therm, and $100/on-peak kW*, capped at 50% of the measure cost. In addition to the incentive, PG&E will provide engineering resources to identify and analyze potential energy savings from retrocommissioning measures.

In addition to receiving cash incentives, the RCx Program offers participants:

• a more comfortable facility
• more efficient facility operations
• longer equipment service life
• lower energy bills
• a thorough building assessment by qualified engineering professionals
• support options throughout the retrocommissioning process

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The RCx Program is intended for commercial customers who:

• Receive gas OR electric service from PG&E;
• Pay a California public purpose programs surcharge on their utility bills;
• Own or operate a facility that has at least 100,000 square feet of conditioned space or that consumes 2,000,000 kWh or 50,000 therms per year; and
• Have access to funding to implement agreed upon RCx measures within 12 months.

*Estimate only. PG&E finalizes the incentive amounts after completing the project approval process.
HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?
PG&E, third-party vendors and senior building operations staff at participating sites work closely through a three-step process:

1. Project Initiation
Customers provide some basic information about their facility(ies). The facility owner grants PG&E access to billing data to establish a benchmark rating according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Performance Rating System. The rating system weighs variables such as the facility size and location to generate a score between 1 and 100. PG&E uses the score to select the best candidates for retrocommissioning and monitor their progress over time.

A PG&E Representative schedules free, on-site audits of each promising RCx Program candidate facility. An RCx Program Engineer gathers information about the control system, scheduling, and the condition of equipment and generates an estimated project budget, timeline, and potential savings figures.

2. Project Investigation
If the Program Engineer determines that cost-effective energy-saving measures exist, the building owner will be asked to sign a RCx Program Owner Agreement. The owner is asked to commit to implementing reasonable measures with an estimated payback period of one year or less, up to the cost of the consultant study.

An RCx Program Engineer uses careful observation, targeted functional testing, and trend data analysis to identify problems and opportunities for energy savings and produces a prioritized report listing recommended measures, estimated project costs and incentives, energy savings, and payback periods.

3. Implementation, Verification and Payment
PG&E’s RCx team and the facility owner decide which measures to implement. PG&E and its vendors provide documentation, support, and training as requested. A PG&E Representative confirms that installed measures are complete and verifies savings calculations.

YOUR NEXT STEPS
To learn more about PG&E’s RCx Program, call your account representative or email the RCx Program office at rcxprogram@pge.com or visit www.pge.com/rcx.