Berea College Cleans Classroom Air with UV-C

Photo by Keith Taylor, The Berea Citizen

PROBLEM:

Like schools and universities across the country, Berea College emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic dedicated to improving its campus air quality and safeguarding the health of students and faculty.

In line with this goal, the private liberal arts college in Berea, Kentucky, began retrofitting its HVAC equipment with UV light technology.

SOLUTION:

UV-C light technology has a proven history of reducing the spread of infectious diseases. According to UV-C fixture manufacturer UV Resources, "The UV-C wavelength inactivates microorganisms living on HVAC air ducts and evaporator coils with a kill ratio of 90% or higher." With over 650,000 square feet of Berea College's campus treated by UV light technology, the university has cleaner and healthier air than ever before.

Berea College and the design team focused on implementing this technology where it was most effective. While determining where to install UV lights, the team focused on 1) areas where recirculated air re-entered the HVAC equipment and 2) areas where the Berea community is most likely to gather.

RESULTS:

By installing UV-C disinfection fixtures in the campus' existing HVAC equipment, the germicidal lights effectively "clean" the heating/cooling coils. This results in reduced energy and maintenance costs for the site's HVAC equipment. With the reduced energy and maintenance costs, Berea College is not only a healthier campus but a greener, more sustainable campus.

This effort would not have been possible without the great work and dedication of the Berea College Facility Group, the design team (CMTA and Thermal Equipment Sales) and the construction team (Henderson Services).

UV-C is endorsed by the CDC, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and ASHRAE, and backed by nearly a century of scientific research.

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