

Self Powered Electronic Keyless Locks

Environmental and Human Health Impact: Reduce the amount of batteries going to landfills by 50,000 or 1.25 tons annually.

Business Impact: Cost Neutral

Challenge

In a large hospital setting such as Kaiser Permanente, you'll find keyless door locks everywhere. These kinds of locks ensure security and are convenient for storing articles such as like medication and patient records. However, the cost of these locks can be high due to the expense of replacing batteries, and properly disposing of the batteries. Based on conservative estimates, KP has approximately 6,000 battery-powered keyless locks across its 35 medical centers and 454 medical office buildings.

Aim/Goal

- Adopt an innovative solution that reduces facility maintenance and our battery waste stream.

Team

Mark Woods, Key Control Officer, Northwest Region

Ketan Shah, National Sourcing Manager, Procurement & Supply

Actions Taken

- ✓ KP facilities and Procurement & Supply partnered with the current vendor, Stanley Security Solutions, to devise or find an alternative to battery powered keyless locks.
- ✓ The team also mandated that the solution should be a sustainable one that eliminates the use of batteries completely but still offers the same convenience and security.
- ✓ Stanley Security Solutions took the request from KP and researched options with their partners and competition worldwide for possible options.
- ✓ Their efforts uncovered an innovative solution offered by Kaba Access Control who had recently introduced a self-powered keyless lock.
- ✓ A simple turn of the lever before entering a PIN provides all the power needed to run the lock functions and maintain a completed audit trail, which is important for security. This negates the need for wiring and batteries.

Results



- ✓ This product is compliant with the EU Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive and is free of toxic metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium because it doesn't require batteries.
- ✓ The product has resulted in fewer calls to facilities management to replace batteries. It's also reduced nurse maintenance calls, thereby enabling staff to allocate more time to other responsibilities.
- ✓ KP plans to migrate 80 percent of the installed locks, which have an estimated life of 10 years, to this new self-powered system by 2015.

This will prevent approximately 50,000 or just over one ton of batteries from going to the landfill annually.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ When the marketplace or suppliers are challenged, they often come up with solutions that meet and sometimes exceed expectations.

Next Steps

- ✓ Continue to phase out the old battery-powered keyless locks.
- ✓ Find similar solutions for other battery operated devices.