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three levels
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Shop heating

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U.S. \$6.95
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RADIANT CEILING PANELS

The electric radiant-heat panels in the finish room above Franklin Nichols' shop in Washington Depot, Conn., are as simple to install and operate as the lights that share the ceiling. After trying every imaginable heating system and finding them all discomforting in the finish room for safety reasons, Nichols hit upon Enerjoy Peopleheaters, manufactured by SSHC, Inc. (800-544-5182; www.sshcinc.com). Nichols figures he pays a little more for electricity, but he has nothing but praise for the five, 1-in.-thick, 4-ft. by 8-ft. panels that heat his cavernous upstairs. Like Tracy's

radiant floor, the panels warm people and objects first, keeping materials at a constant working temperature and allowing the air itself to be cooler without a loss of comfort. The electric panels are noncombustible, which gives Nichols peace of mind. The radiant panels heat up quickly, they don't take up floor or wall space, and they're light enough to be lowered closer to you or your work. Peopleheaters are available in panels as small as 1 ft. by 2 ft. The standard bearer, a 2-ft. by 4-ft. panel, costs about \$200. Nichols' five much larger panels together cost less than \$1,500, a steep discount from full price because they're cosmetic seconds, ideal for a shop and available from SSHC. □



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INDUSTRY NEWS

CL&P to Test Radiant Electric Heating Panels

In a "gas-threatened" property, Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) plans to replace an aging system of radiant heat panels embedded in the ceilings with a modern, modular, solid-state heating panel.

The existing system of wires embedded in the panels has left the occupants of the Heritage Village, a retirement complex in Southbury, Connecticut, complaining of discomfort and high energy bills. The system is also costly to maintain. In searching for a solution, the utility came across the Enerjoy People Heater (see article on p. 4 for details on the product and results from a field test). The utility will subsidize the installation of the product in 16 units, representing the 16 types of homes in the village. If all goes according to plan, all 2,500 units of the slab on grade condominiums will eventually install the product.

CL&P's Todd Fitz told **DSTR** that the use of the panels will cut installed power by 60-70%, reducing power density from the current 10 W/square foot to 3-4 W/square foot. The demand impact is significant because his utility is getting to be a winter peaking operation.

The People Heaters can be installed with the existing wiring system and Fitz expects them to be in place in time for the entire heating season. He hopes to have some analysis by the end of the winter, and anticipates a 40% reduction in energy consumption, as well as an increase in occupant comfort, and a reduction in maintenance costs.

The savings depend on occupants turning off the heaters when they leave the room, but Fitz believes that because the occupants represent a mature population, they will turn their heaters off at the appropriate times. If the results show otherwise, the panels can be operated with occupancy sensors.

The project also entails installing new thermostats, bathroom fans, and recessed light fixtures, and some education for the occupants on the new systems.

For more information, contact: Todd Fitz, Connecticut Light and Power Company, 250 Freight Street, Waterbury, CT 06720; (203) 597-4209.

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