

ILLUMIENT



Case Study:



The City of Pickering, located east of Toronto and bordering Lake Ontario, is home to almost 95,000 people. It features an emerging City Centre, is home to the Durham College/ Centennial College Joint Learning Centre and almost 3,500 businesses. The City also has numerous parks and recreational areas including waterfront facilities.

Pickering's recreational facilities include a leash-free dog area at Grand Valley Park. Park users wanted to be able to bring their dogs to the park before sunrise and after sunset during the times of year with fewer daylight hours. At the time, there was no existing lighting in the park or adjacent parking lot.

The local off-leash committee therefore requested that the City provide lighting in the parking lot to enhance safety and security during nighttime hours, and to light part of the off-leash area where dogs can run free.





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ROB GAGEN
*Supervisor of Parks Operations,
City of Pickering*



To provide electric lights the City would have had to tap into Ontario Hydro’s power lines on the nearby road. With existing transformers on the poles there was little room to do so, and the City did not believe that they could have secured the necessary permission. As a result, they decided to explore their options for solar-powered lighting.

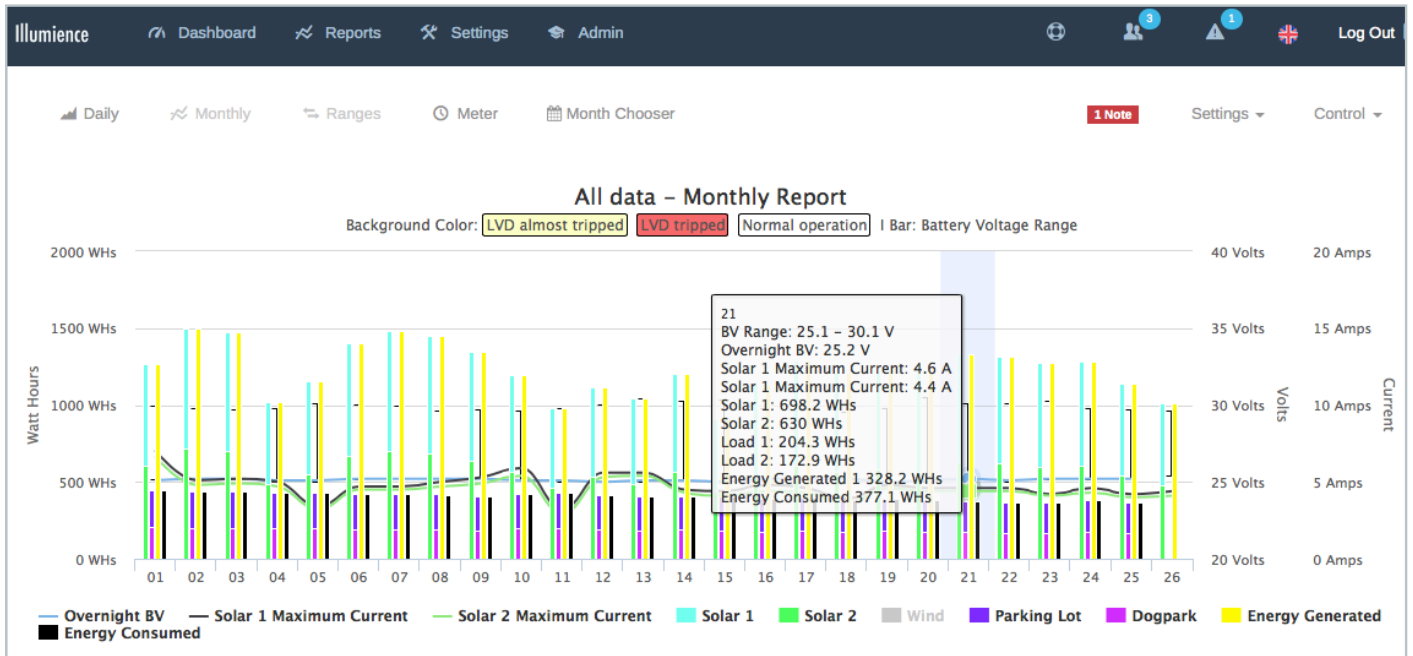
The City of Pickering already had an award winning sustainability program, which had led to the creation of Ontario’s first municipal Office of Sustainability. The City’s stated goal is to become one of the most sustainable municipalities in Canada. Adding solar lighting at Grand Valley Park was a natural extension to this goal.

City personnel had looked into solar lighting previously, but the Canadian climate and lack of sunshine in the winter would have required solar and wind hybrid lighting that was beyond the available budget. After a discussion with staff from Illumient about its Smart Off-Grid technology, the City found that the new technology would enable the lighting needed at an affordable cost.

“We were very impressed by Illumient’s presentation about their lighting and Smart Off-Grid technology,” said Rob Gagen, Supervisor of Parks Operations at the City. “We had sufficient funding, so in the fall of 2014, two solar lights were installed at the park, one in the parking lot and one to provide light at the off-leash dog run.”

Since the installation the lights have delivered the performance expected and provided City residents with the lighting service they wanted at the dog park. Motion sensors installed on the lights also provide information about park usage, and enable the automatic dimming when no one is there to save energy in the batteries.

Illumience Smart Off-Grid receives data around the clock from the lighting system, ensuring any issues can be resolved without impacting light operations and enabling proactive maintenance.



As the Parks Supervisor, Gagen also values the Smart Off-Grid features that automatically monitor all aspects of the lighting system, and would send alarms and notifications if there were any issues.

“We have received no alarms or calls about any issues. I check the status now and again from the computer, but the less time I have to spend, the better.”

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