



Melink Partners with Darden

Melink Corporation recently partnered with Darden Restaurants to install Intelli-Hood® Demand Control Kitchen Ventilation (DCKV) systems in 32 Olive Garden locations across the United States. This multi-site installation aimed to optimize energy efficiency, lower utility costs, and enhance sustainability efforts within Darden's operations. To ensure their newly installed systems were performing as expected, Darden opted for Melink's Active Monitoring service—a smart solution that verifies the Intelli-Hood system's performance in real-time and alerts the customer of any operational issues.

Active Monitoring Ensures System Reliability

Melink's Active Monitoring ensures that the Intelli-Hood system is modulating kitchen fan speeds correctly, providing immediate feedback if any faults or disruptions occur. These alerts could stem from various causes, such as failed variable frequency drives (VFDs), bypassed system schedules, human error, or even staff turnover. Over an initial sample of more than 10,000 monitored days of system operation, the data



revealed impressive results: out of all 32 sites, there were only 12 days of downtime, resulting in an outstanding system uptime of 99.89%. The reliability of the Intelli-Hood system and the constant oversight provided by Active Monitoring resulted in substantial benefits for Darden. The installation reduced the company's annual utility costs by \$245,854 across all sites while contributing to a carbon dioxide reduction of 1,182,469 lbs per year—equivalent to taking over 115 cars off the road annually.

The Long-Term Benefits of Active Monitoring

Melink's Active Monitoring played a crucial role in ensuring this success. By offering real-time performance validation, it allows customers like Darden to maximize their commercial kitchen's HVAC performance while protecting their long-term investment with no direct additional oversight. For other Melink customers, leveraging Active Monitoring can provide the same peace of mind. Whether it's preventing costly energy waste or ensuring equipment functions as intended, this service minimizes operational risks and ensures that the Intelli-Hood system continues delivering energy savings and sustainability benefits long after installation.

Achieving Long-Term Savings and Sustainability

With Intelli-Hood and Active Monitoring, customers can achieve not only immediate savings but also long-term performance validation, making it a smart and reliable choice for those looking to optimize their commercial kitchens.