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Bright Lights, Big Savings

Upgrade to More Efficient Lighting Pays Off for One EGV Company

Whether the motivation is to cut costs, reduce your carbon footprint, or both, lighting offers an opportunity to see a return on investment relatively quickly. That's what [Standard Rubber Products Co.](#) learned when it upgraded to more energy-efficient lighting earlier this year.

The company replaced now-obsolete fluorescent T12 bulbs* with energy-efficient linear LEDs throughout its 50,000-square-foot facility in the Elk Grove Business Park, along with other upgrades, enabling it to slash power consumption by 70 percent.

Upgrade Options

SRP simply could have switched out the T12s for more energy-efficient T8 or T5 bulbs. But those require special hazardous disposal, and there are more energy-efficient options. Instead, for maximum energy efficiency, the company installed 70 new fixtures, replacing 150 4-foot and curved fluorescents.

SRP also retrofitted all other fixtures with LED bulbs — less expensive than replacing the fixtures, while still a big step in energy efficiency. In all, SRP changed out 262 8-foot fluorescents, 68 4-foot fluorescents, more than 200 miscellaneous bulbs, and installed all new switches and dimmers throughout the facility.

The initial \$50,300 project cost was offset right away by a \$19,000 ComEd rebate and \$19,000 in Federal EPA tax incentives.** SRP estimates the remaining \$12,300 will take less than four years to regain. Less expensive lighting upgrades can have an even shorter payback period.

Helping the Planet and the Bottom Line

"Our company is very excited about the environmental benefits that will be created from the switch to LED lighting," says Larry Gualano, Jr., Manufacturing Engineer and part of the third generation of leadership at SRP. "This system will result in an annual energy usage reduction of over 50,000 kwh — a 70 percent operating cost reduction versus the fluorescent lighting system that we replaced," he adds.

In its lobby, SRP proudly displays a special ComEd "Zero 12 Facility" plaque — part of the utility's [Smart Ideas for Your Business Program](#)®.

Maintaining a close working relationship with ComEd is one way the Village of Elk Grove strives to be "Beyond Business Friendly."

"Elk Grove Village has been Standard Rubber Products' home for almost 50 years," says Larry Gualano, President. "We are very proud to have been a part of this business community over that time."

Want to learn more about SRP's lighting upgrade?

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SMART LIGHTING CHECKLIST

Easy measures you can take to keep electricity costs down and your carbon footprint small:

- Turn off lights and other equipment when not in use. Don't pay for what you don't use.
- Have switch plate occupancy sensors installed in places that are frequently unoccupied (meeting rooms, washrooms, etc.), so lights automatically turn off when no one is present and on when people return.
- Adjust lighting to actual needs; maximize use of free "daylight" during the day.
- Don't "over-light." It costs a lot more, and too much light can be as bad for visual quality as too little light.
- Install ENERGY STAR qualified exit signs throughout your facility.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR program at www.energystar.gov



Advantages of LEDs vs. Traditional Bulbs

- 55-85% energy savings
- Less heat generated, so reduced heat load
- Reduced maintenance costs due to drastically longer lifetime (30,000 to 80,000 compared to 2,000 to 2,500)
- Better light quality and output

* T12s were phased out in 2012 due to federal energy efficiency regulations; both the lamps and ballasts are no longer legal to be produced or imported.

** Approximate totals for both ComEd and tax incentives.