

## **Resurrection Health Care cuts \$900,000 in annual energy use with lighting retrofit**

Resurrection Health Care is saving an estimated \$900,000 annually with a lighting retrofit for its six acute care hospitals and several other medical and professional office buildings in the Chicago area.



Over a three-year period, Resurrection replaced T12 lamps and electromagnetic ballasts with energy-efficient F28 T8 lamps and electronic ballasts, cutting nearly 9 million kilowatt-hours in annual energy use because of the lighting retrofit, according to Wayne Gelman, contract administrator, Resurrection Health Care.

### **Work with Grainger, GE Lighting and ComEd**

Maintenance, repair and operations market distributor Grainger, Lake Forest, Ill., played an important role in a partnership with Resurrection that also included GE Lighting, East Cleveland, Ohio, and Commonwealth Edison Co. (ComEd), Chicago.

### **Convert to T8 lamps**

Over a three-year period, Resurrection replaced inefficient T12 lamps and electromagnetic ballasts with energy-efficient F28 T8 lamps and electronic ballasts from GE Lighting, a key supplier for Grainger, and new reflectors from Lithonia Lighting, Conyers, Ga., an Acuity Brands Company, Gelman said.

Lamps were installed by in high-use common areas throughout the six hospitals and several other buildings where lighting was on 24 hours a day.

ComEd made the \$1.7 million project financially feasible for Resurrection by giving it \$540,000 in rebates through its Smart Ideas for Business energy-efficiency rebate program. That dropped the project's final cost to Resurrection to \$1.1 million, Gelman said.

### **Educating staff critical to success**

Gelman credits Diane Valek, health care account manager, Grainger, for educating the health system about the potential benefits of a lighting retrofit and ComEd's Smart Ideas energy rebate program.

Valek said because lighting is an energy-intensive part of any hospital operation, it was only natural to inform Resurrection about the merits of replacing its inefficient T12 lamps with GE's F28 T8s. "We realized they were using old-style lighting. Technology was better and there was a big opportunity for savings in energy costs if they were to upgrade," she said.

### **Energy audit reveals savings opportunities**

The project launched a few years ago after Grainger and GE Lighting conducted a lighting energy audit to determine the potential payback for a retrofit, said Larry Latas, system director of properties,

Resurrection Health Care. As part of the audit, Grainger and GE checked the status of lights throughout the health care system's facilities, Valek said.

A clinching factor in pursuing the project was the anticipated one-year return on investment to retrofit lights in St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, Ill., which served as the pilot facility, Gelman said. Once that proved successful, the project was expanded to the other hospitals and most buildings in the system.

Jim Dobosz, lead account manager, GE Lighting, who worked with Valek on the project, said it was important Resurrection officials understood that not only would they reduce their energy bill, but the facilities would also have upgraded lighting.



In several instances GE replaced 74-watt and higher T12 lamps with 44-watt F28 T8 lamps due in part to adding reflector kits to the fixtures, he said. The average projected 30,000-hour life of the lamps is 50 percent greater than the T12 lamps that were replaced.

#### **Additional projects underway**

Resurrection is pursuing other energy-efficiency strategies with Grainger. The health care system projects energy cost savings of \$558,000 after recently installing variable-frequency drives in buildings throughout the health system, Latas said.

Premier contracts:

Grainger, PP-FA-270

GE Lamps and Ballasts PP-FA-258

Lithonia Lighting (Acuity Brands) PP-FA-256.

Visit Premier's Supply Chain Advisor catalog for contract details

**Return to:**

[GreenLink newsletter](#)

[Green Corner home page for more success stories](#)