



LED upgrade provides brighter space and lower bills for Clovis Public Schools



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Carrie Bunce

Deputy Superintendent of Operations
Clovis Public Schools

A jump start

Bonus dollars can often be the kick starter to a potential project. That was the case with Clovis Public Schools. The operations team learned about Xcel Energy's 30-percent bonus lighting rebates, and that was all it took to get the project started. It was massive, however, as it included retrofitting old lighting technology throughout 19 campuses and upgrading to 100-percent LED technology. With a plan in place, the team went to work.

Big savings

The school district serves more than 8,000 students through two preschools, 12 elementary schools, three middle schools, a freshman academy and a high school. The buildings vary in age and lighting technology, making the project somewhat complicated.

"I was the principal in a school when they put LEDs in the central office, and we loved it," explains Carrie Bunce, deputy superintendent of operations. "I wanted to get rid of the flickering and humming ballasts to create a healthier and more comfortable environment for our children."

She learned about Xcel Energy's bonus rebates and immediately jumped into action.

"The 30-percent bonus rebates made all the difference," Bunce says. "The extra dollars prompted us to move on the project and work as quickly as possible to retrofit all of our schools."

Within a year, the interior lighting on 14 of the 19 buildings was retrofitted to LED lighting. The others were soon to follow. The project saves the district 1.1 million kilowatt-hours each year, which is enough energy to power about 110 homes for a year, according to the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. It's estimated that the project will pay for itself in savings in only two years.



Project Highlights

Project	Install LED lighting in 19 school district buildings
Overall project cost	\$992,000
Xcel Energy rebate	\$188,200
Estimated annual energy savings	1,151,170 kWh
Payback term	Two years

"I'm so happy we did it, but I'm also happy that it's done," Bunce says with a laugh. "It was a huge project, but it went really smoothly."

Next steps

Now that the interior lights are upgraded, Bunce says the buildings' exterior lighting is next.

"We're in the process of replacing wall packs outside, which will help us save energy and further reduce our maintenance costs," Bunce says. "As lights burn out, we're replacing them with LEDs and achieving rebate dollars as we go."

For more about Xcel Energy's energy efficiency rebates and programs, visit [**xcelenergy.com/Business**](http://xcelenergy.com/Business).

