



# Upgrading the lighting at Peterborough County-City Health Unit improves working conditions and saves approximately \$3,100 annually

## CASE STUDY

### *Peterborough County-City Health Unit Project Stats:*

- Interior lighting retrofit
- Savings \$3,100 annually
- Incentive \$5,658

## PROJECT

Reduce energy consumption by 23,608 kilowatt-hours per year, with annual savings of \$3,100, at Peterborough City County Health Unit's main office, by installing energy-efficient lighting.

## BACKGROUND

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit (PCCHU) office on Hospital Drive houses 80 people who are engaged in promoting and protecting health in Peterborough County and the City of Peterborough. The building serves as both a base for health professionals engaged in community outreach, as well as a centre for visitors seeking information on issues ranging from water quality testing to genetics counselling. The 15,045 sq. ft., two-level building opened in 1975.

A 2008 audit of the facilities, conducted by an independent engineering firm, identified interior lighting as an opportunity for improvement that would lead to a reduction in energy consumption and commensurate electricity bill savings.

“As a health unit, we were motivated by the environmental benefits of saving energy,” said Brent Woodford, PCCHU’s Director of Corporate Services, “but we couldn’t ignore the dollar savings.”

The Ontario Power Authority, through Peterborough Distribution Inc., provided a total of \$5,658 under the Small Business Lighting and Retrofit Incentive Programs. The total cost of the project was \$12,900.

## IMPLEMENTATION

PCCHU retained a local contractor, Tri-Line Electric Ltd., to undertake the retrofit. The installation began in late October 2011 and the entire job was completed in less than two weeks.



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## FINANCING

The total cost of the lighting conversion project at PCCHU was \$12,900. OPA's Retrofit program contributed \$4,658 towards the project costs. The Small Business Lighting program contributed another \$1,000. The net cost to PCCHU was \$8,242.

The financial incentives reduced the payback period from 50 months to 32 months.

## RESULTS

The projected annual bill savings from reduced electricity consumption is \$3,100. This will result in a pay-back of just over two and a half years.

The yearly reduction in electricity consumption of 23,608 kilowatt-hours will result in annual greenhouse gas savings of more than four tonnes.

The office lighting has noticeably improved, creating a better working environment for staff and for visitors.

“Our offices were darker before,” said Kevin Warren, PCCH's custodian. “Not only is the new lighting brighter, softer and warmer, it is more evenly disbursed throughout the office. The natural light also seems to be better for the plants!”

## LESSONS LEARNED

Messrs Woodford and Warren pointed out that it's important to have a good lighting contractor who is sensitive to the customer's need for minimal disruption and who can handle all of the necessary documentation for available incentives.

“I can't say enough about Tri-line,” said Mr. Warren, who worked with the contractor. “Everything went quickly and efficiently, with no problems, whatsoever.”

The savings and short payback that PCCHU is anticipating from the interior lighting retrofit has highlighted the value of energy-efficiency to the organization. PCCHU is now considering upgrades to their exterior building and parking area lighting.

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