

New space, new lamps, new look: OrePac building supplies see the light

GROWING PAINS

When OrePac, a wholesale building supplies distributor, moved into its current warehouse space seven years ago, it gutted the building—removing structural material, construction debris and asbestos insulation. At the time, getting all its building supplies into the 140,000 square foot space was OrePac’s top priority, so energy efficiency wasn’t a consideration.

However, once OrePac settled in to the new warehouse space, it discovered the lights were all wrong. The racks of doors, decking and siding weren’t properly lit, making it difficult for warehouse employees to find what they needed.

The office manager, Jennifer Eye, knew OrePac not only needed better lighting, but a more energy-efficient system as well. She worked with Lights On of Colorado and Xcel Energy to determine what would work best.

“Our manager wanted us to be the first branch to implement some green measures,” says Eye. “We wanted better light, of course, but conserving energy and reducing our carbon footprint were also priorities.”

Financial snapshot

Project	Replaced old lighting technology with six-lamp T8 high bay fixtures with motion sensors
Cost	\$71,840
Xcel Energy rebate	\$36,600
Cost after rebate	\$35,240
Estimated annual energy savings	\$25,000 (178,000 kWh)
Demand savings	74 kW
Payback term	1.3 years

When she realized that the Xcel Energy rebate would cover more than half the cost of the project, the idea became a plan.

MAKING THE SWITCH

OrePac installed over 200 six-lamp T8 high bay fluorescent fixtures along with occupancy sensors since there are empty areas of the warehouse that don’t need to be lit full time.

“I’ve noticed a big difference,” says Eye. “The warehouse was dark before and now everything’s easy to see and easy to find.” She adds that she’s noticed a decrease in monthly energy bills and likes that OrePac will recoup its investment in less than a year and a half.

Many customers find that updating lighting systems is a great first step in developing an overall energy efficiency program. Once customers know that they can save energy and money on lighting, they’ll often explore other energy efficiency projects.

For more information about Xcel Energy’s energy efficiency and rebate programs visit ResponsibleByNature.com.

