

Hospital Takes Parking Garage Lighting to New Level



For more than a century, Advocate BroMenn Medical Center has been in the business of adding days to the lives of its patients. These days, the hospital is even extending the life of its parking garage lighting, with a little help from the Ameren Illinois ActOnEnergy® program.

Like most parking garages, the six-deck garage serving Advocate BroMenn is lit around-the-clock for safety reasons. This heavy energy usage makes it an area ripe for efficiency improvements.

"The lighting in our parking garage operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week," says Dwight Hill, Director of Facilities Management. "To make matters worse, our metal halide lighting was high maintenance and expensive to operate, so I saw an opportunity for a lighting retrofit."

To make the most of that opportunity, he turned to a powerful combination: high-efficiency LED lighting and daylight sensors. He also turned to ActOnEnergy.

The estimated annual energy savings of 325,000 kilowatt-hours helped justify the project's \$180,000 costs. Nearly \$23,000 in cash incentives from ActOnEnergy sealed the deal and shaved six months off the project's payback period.

"I applaud the ActOnEnergy program. We probably wouldn't have gone forward with the project without the incentive," says Hill. He also credits Springfield Electric, an ActOnEnergy Program Ally, as a helpful resource throughout the ActOnEnergy application process.

With the help of Springfield Electric, in early 2011 Advocate BroMenn replaced more than 250 metal halide fixtures with BetaLED luminaires. The upgrade changed out 175-watt bulbs for 40-watt LED lighting.

Two daylight sensors take energy efficiency to the next level by ensuring that lights are on only when they are needed.

One sensor ensures that lights on the outer perimeter of each floor go on only as daylight fades. Another sensor covers the building's inner perimeter where there is less exposure to natural light and more need for artificial lighting.

"There's nothing more efficient than sunlight, and we don't take advantage of it to the level we should. Photocells help us make the most of this natural energy source," says ActOnEnergy's

Benefits of LED Lighting to Advocate BroMenn:

- 325,660 kilowatt-hours saved annually
- \$32,000 in reduced energy costs every year
- \$13,000 in reduced maintenance costs every year
- More durable light
- Better quality of light
- Long life – up to 11 years!

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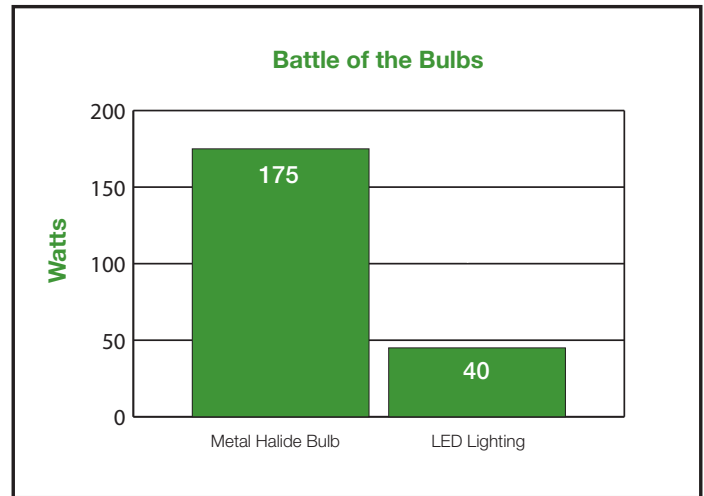
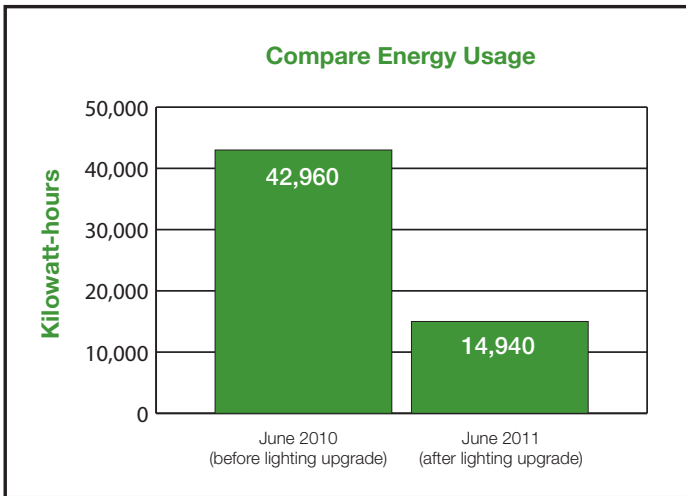
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“Everybody loves savings. I actually look forward to getting power bills now to see how much we’ve saved.”

— **Dwight Hill**, Director, Facilities Management, Advocate BroMenn



“The Advocate BroMenn project is a good application of LED technology. It’s practical and easily duplicated by any parking garage — and ActOnEnergy can help.”

— **Dave Kilgore**, ActOnEnergy

continued from front

Dave Kilgore. “The two-pronged approach taken by Advocate BroMenn drastically reduced their energy use right out of the gate.”

As an added benefit, the LED lights produce a more attractive, natural light and are immune to temperature-related performance issues. As Hill says, “They perform well in extremely cold temperatures and the quality of light is better – it’s a whiter light.”

Equally attractive is the effect the LEDs will have on the hospital’s bottom line. The kilowatt savings alone will translate into dollar savings of roughly \$32,000 every year. Plus, the long-lasting LED lighting will save more than \$13,000 every year in reduced maintenance costs.

“We were replacing our metal halide bulbs as often as twice a year,” says Hill. With a lifetime of up to 11 years, the LED lighting will lighten the load on hospital maintenance staff.

“Everybody loves savings,” says Hill. “I actually look forward to getting power bills now to see how much we’ve saved.” •

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