

Illinois Galatia School Lights Up with Energy Efficiency Project

“We knew a lighting upgrade would have a direct and immediate impact not only on student classrooms and teacher offices, but on energy costs. This was one project that would create budget savings and enhance the quality of learning.”

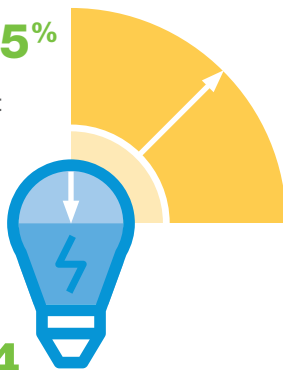
MR. SHAIN CRANK
Superintendent, Galatia Community School District #1

Galatia CUSD #1 significantly improved its learning environment:

60–125%
increase in lumen output

39%
decrease in electricity usage

\$1,994
per year in energy savings



CHALLENGE

At Galatia Grade School, students, teachers, and parents are the very life of the building. So when it comes to caring for the place that provides education and community, district administration makes it a high priority.

After some time visiting the classrooms and offices at Galatia Grade School, Mr. Shain Crank, Galatia Community School District #1 Superintendent, couldn't help but notice that the lighting was poor. Rather than vibrant learning environments, rooms were increasingly more dim. Upon further discussion with building maintenance staff, he learned that the school's lighting fixtures were outdated – most T8 and T12 fluorescent technology – original to the building's construction.

“Walking into the classrooms I couldn't help but notice a general yellow hue, and in some rooms, dark spots. Looking up, I could tell the lighting was outdated.” said Mr. Crank.

Mr. Crank knew the lighting had to be upgraded. He had heard stories where LED technology reduced energy costs for other schools while simultaneously providing a significantly better lit environment in which to learn – two of his primary objectives. Wondering about his options, he turned to NextEra Energy Solutions, the district's energy services partner with the Illinois Energy Consortium, to learn more.

ANALYSIS

After some discussion and an investment-grade site audit, NextEra Energy Solutions provided the District with lighting recommendations, savings analysis and financing options to consider.

Financially, the decision to upgrade the lighting was not an easy one. As with any school, budgets were tight and project lists ran deep. But for Mr. Crank and the School Board, it kept coming back to the students and teachers – and the importance of the learning environment.

RESULTS

Given budget priorities, the District decided to divide the lighting upgrades into two phases, with the Grade School classrooms and offices done in phase 1. After just three days of project work over the summer, phase 1 of the lighting upgrade was complete.

By replacing and re-lamping the grade school's offices and classrooms, students, teachers and district administration can't help but notice the difference.

“The new lights are incredible! We've heard numerous comments from the community on the brightness and clarity of the rooms. Our maintenance staff is also happy to be freed up to tend to other repairs.”

About NextEra Energy and the Illinois Energy Consortium

Through the Illinois Energy Consortium, almost 250 school districts and community colleges in Illinois have teamed up to purchase electricity. Supporting Illinois school districts since 1999, the IEC partnered with NextEra Energy Services in 2014 to bring improved power supply options to Illinois schools. NextEra Energy Solutions, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Services, offers conservation and sustainability services, as well as, large-scale construction project management.