



## ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### ELMWOOD TROJANS TACKLE ENERGY WASTE

Helping students reach their highest potential is a core value that drives the Elmwood, Illinois school district. Those same high standards also apply to the staff that manages the buildings and grounds serving the students and faculty.

“Our facilities realized an incredible ‘face lift’ after we completed a two-year renovation and addition, and we wanted to see if switching over to an all-LED based lighting approach was feasible,” says Dr. Chad Wagner, Superintendent of Elmwood School District.

The project moved forward very quickly after Wagner learned about Ameren Illinois lighting incentives. Follow-up conversations with Ameren Illinois Energy Advisors provided the information and guidance for immediate next steps.

“We provide information and cash incentives to put a variety of energy efficiency measures within reach for our customers,” says Ken Woolcutt, Energy Efficiency Manager at Ameren Illinois. “LEDs are the superstars of the lighting world, and a great place for any organization to start saving.”

The Elmwood School District lighting project qualified for nearly \$30,000 in cash incentives from Ameren Illinois. Those funds covered more than 85% of project costs and reduced project payback to just four months.

Working with Ameren Illinois Program Ally H&H Industries, “the LED conversion project included changing all of our antiquated lights over to LED in all areas of our district facilities that did not have them — both inside and outdoors,” says Wagner.

ENERGY STAR®-qualified LED lighting uses a fraction of the electricity required by incandescent or fluorescent lighting, while boasting a much longer life than other

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#### Grade-A Savings

Ameren Illinois can help educational facilities — including universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools — cut annual energy costs and improve learning environments. Cash incentives are available for a variety of energy efficiency projects, including:

- No-cost/low-cost energy efficiency improvements
- Lighting upgrades
- Heating and cooling system improvements
- Commercial kitchen equipment upgrades
- LED exit signs, and vending controls
- Motor upgrades
- Steam system improvements
- Custom projects

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— Chad Wagner, Superintendent,  
Elmwood School District

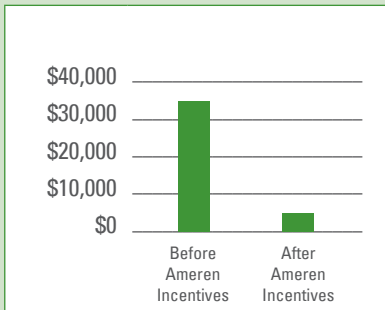
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## The Lowdown on LEDs

ENERGY STAR-qualified LED lighting uses at least 80 percent less energy than incandescent lighting, which cuts operating costs. And because it lasts 35 to 50 times longer than incandescent lighting — and up to five times longer than fluorescent lighting — you'll save on maintenance costs, too.



## Lighting Project Costs



bulbs. Ease of maintenance, resistance to breakage, and the ability to focus the light in a single direction — not to mention a better quality of light — make LEDs the smart choice.

“The difference between the LED lights and the previous lighting is immediately noticeable, especially in the gymnasiums. Spaces are so much brighter and more appealing than before,” says Wagner. “I have even had several coaches stop me and comment on how much they like the new lighting!”

Beyond the visible differences, the new LEDs deliver powerful savings to the district’s power bill. By reducing energy use by nearly 168,000 kilowatt-hours every year, the school district is saving more than \$13,000 in annual energy costs — while reducing its carbon footprint.

“Ameren Illinois is pleased to help schools brighten up learning environments, while lightening their impact on the environment,” says Woolcutt. “Every dollar saved — on up-front project costs and the monthly power bill — means more funds are available for other important initiatives.”

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“Not only is it important to be more energy-efficient as a school district, but the dollars we save will allow us to continue to improve our facilities, while being financially responsible to our community and taxpayers,” says Wagner, who wasted no time urging his Peoria County colleagues to explore Ameren Illinois incentives. “Support from Ameren Illinois was key in realizing the project and making our district more efficient.”

## Put Theory Into Practice — and Save!

Since 2008, the award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has provided millions in incentives to help business, nonprofit and public organizations reduce their annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air.

**READY TO BEGIN?**

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