



LEDs Steal the Show at Peoria Civic Center

From country crooner Blake Shelton to local talent like the Peoria Rivermen Hockey Club, the Peoria Civic Center offers an array of world-class entertainment. Lighting helps create a mood to match every performance.

In the mood for savings, the civic center put two major LED lighting projects center stage in 2018. Through the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, the city qualified for more than \$152,000 in cash incentives that cut project costs by more than half.

“We are pleased to offer incentives that help municipalities conserve budget funds — and the environment,” says Ken Woolcutt, Energy Efficiency Manager for Ameren Illinois. “Upgrading to the latest LED technology is a simple, smart way to save. And today, there are LEDs to meet every need — including the unique needs of the Peoria Civic Center.”

Working with Program Ally Oberlander Electric Company, Will Kenney, Director of Operations at the civic center, first targeted the 11,330-seat Carver Arena, replacing a mix of metal halide and incandescent lighting that dated back about 20 years. The team followed up by replacing HID and incandescent lighting in more than 110,000 square feet of exhibit space.

The ability to fine-tune lighting levels by zone was critical in all locations. For example, bold, bright lighting helps to showcase cars in the popular Central Illinois Auto Show; while a soft glow works better for banquets.

“Control is very important. We have to be able to provide different lighting levels to accommodate a variety of events and illuminate different sized playing surfaces in the arena,” says Kenney.

With the help of Ameren Illinois Energy Advisors and Oberlander Electric Company, the Peoria Civic Center gained a better quality of light with far fewer fixtures — and the control and flexibility it needed.

“Along with a decrease in utility costs, the light quality is definitely better than before,” says Kenney.

Prior to the upgrades, arena patrons frequently complained about light spilling over into

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— **Bart Rogers**, Chief Operating Officer/
Owner, Peoria Rivermen Hockey Club



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Flip the Switch on Energy Waste

Lighting accounts for as much as 20 to 50 percent of the average business' electricity consumption. On the bright side, that means your business can enjoy significant savings — year after year — by making simple lighting improvements.



The Lowdown on LEDs

ENERGY STAR® qualified LED lighting uses at least 80% 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.

the seating area. Those complaints have been replaced by compliments.

"We've received a lot of positive feedback. Today, the lighting is much more even across the arena floor, and the shadows are gone," says Kenney.

"The new brightness in Carver Arena is great for a host of reasons. First and foremost, it creates a safer environment for our fans to enjoy the game — and they instantly notice how bright the facility looks when they walk into the arena. The new LED lighting creates a much crisper and brighter ambiance and safer environment for our players performing on the ice. And the new lights have done wonders for our game presentation," says Rogers.

The responsiveness of the new LED lighting system also adds a welcome bit of dramatic flair on the ice. "The ability to instantly turn the LED lights on and off allows for greater in-game promotions and fun for fans," says Rogers. "In years past, when the lights were turned off for player introductions or a special on-ice ceremony, it would take approximately 10 minutes for the old lights to warm back up, sometimes delaying the start of the game. Now that is done in just a second!"

"The new LED lighting inside Carver Arena has dramatically improved the Bradley Basketball viewing experience for our fans in the arena, as well as those watching on television. In addition to creating an improved ambiance during the game, the entire lighting system allows for greater flexibility to enhance the entire Bradley Basketball game day experience."

— Bobby Parker, Associate AD for Communications and Event & Facility Operations, Bradley University

Another speedy response came from Oberlander Electric Company in completing the upgrades. In spite of the project's significant scope, the Program Ally completed work in less than three months. The resulting savings will go on for several years.

By reducing annual energy costs by an estimated \$67,000, the civic center will be able to tackle more energy-saving projects in the future. Kenney continues to work with Ameren Illinois to identify projects with the most potential.

"Now that we've got these big projects under our belt, we're looking for more," says Kenney, who was surprised at some of the incentives available.

"Ameren Illinois offers incentives for a lot of things I wasn't aware of — like hot boxes for our kitchen," says Kenney. "It's been great working with the Ameren Illinois team, and I highly recommend the Ameren Illinois programs. The application process was easy and the transition was smooth. The Ameren Illinois team made it very easy to follow through."

Thanks to that follow through, the Peoria Civic Center is now more inviting than ever — whether you're a music or sports fan. But when it comes to energy savings, LEDs steals the show.

Energy Efficiency. It's Good Business.

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.

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