



## Energy Efficiency PROGRAM

# Peoria Non-Profit Helps Ameren Illinois Deliver Savings to Customers



Originally founded in 1941 to provide jobs for recovering tuberculosis patients, Peoria Production Solutions (PPS) today helps people with all types of disabilities gain pride and independence through gainful employment.

While PPS has long been a customer of Ameren Illinois, in 2021, the self-sustaining non-profit became a supplier as well. In a promising new partnership, the utility teamed with PPS to provide packaging and shipping services to support the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program Smart Savers Initiative. Through this Initiative, Ameren Illinois provides smart thermostats free of charge to help low- and moderate-income customers save money in energy costs. The support of the team at PPS helps Ameren Illinois deliver energy savings to customers — and deliver on its goal to build supply chain diversity.

“At Ameren Illinois, we value diversity in our workplace, our communities — and in the suppliers we do business with. This partnership ensures that Ameren Illinois is taking customers with disabilities into account across all aspects of the Program - not only participation, but supply chain and workforce as well,” says Angie Ostaszewski, Advisor – Energy Efficiency. “We hope this is just the beginning of our work with PPS, as their capable team is able to offer many services in the realm of logistics, shipping, and warehousing.”

### CONTACT

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### ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUELS GROWTH AT PPS

For more than 80 years, PPS has provided training, employment and encouragement to help people with disabilities achieve independence. As a completely self-sustaining non-profit operation, every dollar counts.

That’s why PPS partners with Ameren Illinois to reduce energy use and boost its bottom line. Between 2009 – 2021, Ameren Illinois provided nearly \$63,000 in cash incentives to help PPS complete a variety of energy efficiency projects, from high-efficiency lighting to HVAC upgrades.

As a result, PPS has reduced its electricity use by 50% since 2010, saving \$38,000 every year. These energy savings have allowed the nonprofit to more than double its workforce and provide more team-building activities for employees.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- » PPS is 100% self-supporting
- » PPS packaged and shipped more than 1,800 smart thermostats in 2021
- » 12% of Smart Saver funding was spent with diverse suppliers in 2021