

SUCCESS STORY

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECTS



Starting Point

The **Fond du Lac Public Library** is a busy place serving over 1,000 visitors each day. However, this 61,000-square-foot building faced a significant challenge with high utility costs, averaging **\$75,620** per year.

With help from the former director Jon Mark Bolthouse, the library initiated a plan to become more efficient. By using less energy, the library could save money to purchase more books, create new programs, and focus on community services. Additionally, the library wanted to make a commitment to sustainability and lead by example.

Embarking on Energy Efficiency



Upgrading to LED Lighting

The first step started with replacing the existing fluorescent lights with LED fixtures. In addition to standard LED lighting, the library chose an advanced networked lighting control (NLC) system. It saves energy by adjusting light levels in response to daylight, occupancy, and the needs of each space. This upgrade was installed over two years.

The new NLC system included luminaire-level lighting controls to allow for both dimming and zoning capabilities. Zoning makes it possible to adjust lighting in specific areas based on how and when those spaces are used, helping to reduce energy. Since lighting was one of the library's biggest electric costs, the project made a significant difference in utility savings.



Connecting Lighting to Heating and Cooling Systems

Trade Ally **Graybar Electric Company, Inc.** led the effort to involve the library in the **Advanced Lighting and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Controls Pilot Program** from **FOCUS ON ENERGY®**. The project explored connecting networked lighting controls with HVAC systems to automatically adjust building temperature and ventilation based on occupancy signals from the lighting. The current HVAC system was already efficient, but connecting with the lighting controls allowed it to be even more effective. The controls reduced energy from heating and cooling frequently unoccupied spaces, such as meeting rooms.

	Before	After
Electric Use	544,600 kWh	323,600 kWh*
Gas Use	12,900 Therms	11,000 Therms
Total Savings	Over \$21,700 Per Year	

**169,600 kWh from LED upgrade + 22,250 kWh from controls*



Collaborating with Project Partners

Focus on Energy provided guidance on reducing energy use and measured savings in real-time. **Graybar** also coordinated with stakeholders and helped drive the approval process. **Bassett Mechanical** and **Enterprise Lighting & Control** managed the installation and equipment setup.



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For us, energy efficiency isn't just about saving money. It's about being responsible stewards of our resources and setting an example for our community. We're helping others see that sustainability is something everyone can be a part of.

Jon Mark Bolthouse
Former Director
Fond du Lac Public Library

Summary of Results:



75% REDUCTION IN LIGHTING ENERGY USE

- Annual savings of **191,850 kWh**.
- **\$20,200** in utility bill savings each year.

HVAC SAVINGS

1,900 THERMS OF NATURAL GAS PER YEAR

- Annual savings of **29,150 kWh**.
- **\$1,500** in utility bill savings each year.



FOCUS ON ENERGY REBATES

\$16,000 LED LIGHTING UPGRADE

\$26,000 PILOT PROGRAM

Looking Ahead

Fond du Lac Public Library's energy efficiency journey is far from over. The **Friends of the Library**, a community group, raised **\$100,000** to help fund a future solar panel project. Remaining funding will be supported by the city. The solar project will also include an interactive display, so library visitors can see the amount of energy produced in real time.

Leading by Example

Pursuing projects like LED lighting, connected controls, and solar energy will help the Fond du Lac Public Library save tens of thousands of dollars annually on its utility bills. This approach is a great example for other public buildings interested in reducing energy and championing sustainability in their communities.

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REDUCING ENERGY WASTE ACROSS WISCONSIN

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment. Focus on Energy information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that otherwise would not be completed.

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