

SMALL OFFICE BASKS IN THE BRILLIANT LIGHT (AND HASSLE-FREE BENEFITS) OF LED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY

CASE STUDY
COLORADO



"It's just an amazing quality of light ... even our former landlord was impressed and wants to upgrade the entire location with LEDs."

Valerie Brooks,
Manager

Situation:

A remodel that required close budget scrutiny

Coordinating a move from a leased office space to a new headquarters that needed remodeling was no small task, and Valerie Brooks knew she had to watch every dime. As a Big O Tire franchisee managing several locations around Colorado's western slope, Valerie created this new workplace to be an open space designed for productivity.

Challenge:

The cost/benefit factor

Valerie carefully planned the space, furniture, floor coverings, fixtures and more. She wanted to be smart about her choice of lighting, yet mindful of costs—now and in the future. At first she was skeptical of the new LED technology presented by a local lighting expert, but when she learned that LEDs typically have a life of 30,000 to 50,000 hours, she took a second look at her 10-foot ceilings and the thought of replacing bulbs. She figured that the hassles of replacing bulbs all the time alone was worth the higher cost. "With staff of just eight office employees, I knew I'd be the one on bulb duty, so I made the call. I'm so glad we went with LEDs."

Results:

Amazing quality of light and rebate savings

The project replaced existing inefficient fluorescent fixtures with LED troffers designed for recessed-ceiling applications. Plus, the \$1,182 in Xcel Energy rebates available for the LEDs made economic sense.

The most notable difference with the LEDs was the quality of light. Valerie continues, "It's just an amazing quality of light. Soft, but bright, and it's not just me saying it. Everyone who visits our new space comments on the lighting, even our former landlord was impressed and wants to upgrade the entire location with LEDs."



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Project	Replaced inefficient, fluorescent fixtures with LED troffers
Project cost	\$5,398.50
Xcel Energy rebate	\$1,182.50
Cost after rebate	\$4,216
Estimated annual energy savings	3,772 kWh

These state-of-the-art LED troffers provide a superior amount of lumens per watt. Because these fixtures run at 5,000 Kelvin (a midpoint in the light quality balance spectrum), they provide a broad range of light quality. Valerie comments, "Colors really pop, especially the red and black: so prominent in our Big O brand. Plus, we have the added benefit of dimming the fixtures if needed."

Valerie finishes by stating, "I can tell you I'm looking forward to not climbing a ladder to replace bulbs."

Discover savings for your business

Small business customers under 50,000 square feet are eligible to receive free, on-site energy audit which is a comprehensive audit of your facility and its energy use. In addition, for customers with a peak kW use under 100 kW the visit includes no-cost installation of instant energy saving measures such as LED screw-in lamps, and faucet aerators. Sign up for your audit today and we'll determine what lighting upgrades can have the biggest impact in reducing energy costs, identify rebates and provide assistance with completing and submitting rebate paperwork.



For more information, call a program representative at 877.287.2250, or visit xcelenergy.com/SmallBizLighting.

Benefits of LED Troffer Upgrades

Reduced energy use: LEDs are more energy efficient than traditional fluorescent lighting fixtures. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, in some cases, they can be 45% more efficient.

Operational savings: LED technology can have a longer life span than traditional fluorescents, reducing your replacement and maintenance costs.

Improved light quality: LEDs produce an even, bright light which can improve the comfort and productivity of employees.

Increased durability: LEDs are less fragile than fluorescents and less prone to breakage.

