

YMCA Saves Money Through Energy Conservation

In 2004, the YMCA launched a major lighting retrofit in their building. The goal of the project was to provide improved lighting in the building while at the same time reducing energy use. The initiative is proving a huge success on both counts. Patrons have commented favorably on the new lighting. And, even as further improvements are being planned, the YMCA has reduced their electrical cost increases by \$14,000 per year. They have reduced their CO₂ emissions by 217 tonnes per year, and their annual electricity consumption by 170,000 kWh per year. This is about the amount of electricity used by 24 Saskatchewan houses.



Changes included

- Upgrading from T12 to T8 lights fluorescent lights with electronic ballasts.
- Adding high efficiency reflectors to fluorescent fixtures.
- Replacing incandescent lighting with fluorescent.
- Replacing incandescent bulbs in EXIT lights with LED bulbs.

According to Rob Howse, energy consultant, YMCA users will notice improved lighting in the building. The T8 lighting has a better Color Rendering Index (making colors appear more natural) and operates without the flicker and hum of the old T12 lighting, making people feel more comfortable. And incorporating the high efficiency reflectors wherever possible helped to maximize energy savings. "The YMCA has set an example for other Saskatoon organizations!" said Howse.

Ken Muggeridge, CEO of the YMCA says "with our lighting retrofits, electricity costs are much lower than they would be. An added bonus is that the new lights generally last longer than the old ones, so our maintenance personnel can spend less time replacing bulbs and ballasts."

Martin Chicilo, former Community Development Manager with Affinity Credit Union says "We were pleased to loan funds to the YMCA to complete this retrofit. We started this Energy Retrofit Program in order to help non-profit organizations reduce their energy costs and help the environment."

The Affinity Credit Union generously sponsors this program, which helps non-profit organizations reduce their energy costs.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society provides energy assessments and other assistance to non-profit organizations that own their own buildings.

Angie Bugg, Energy Conservation Projects Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society says "The YMCA is to be commended for their leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Their lighting improvements have resulted in a greenhouse gas reduction of 146 tonnes per year."

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The YMCA has benefited from the services offered through a unique partnership.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society and Affinity Credit Union have joined forces to help Saskatoon non-profit organizations reduce their costs through energy conservation in buildings.

Services provided through this partnership include technical assistance and access to loans. By working together, SES and Affinity Credit Union are supporting our community while protecting the earth's resources.

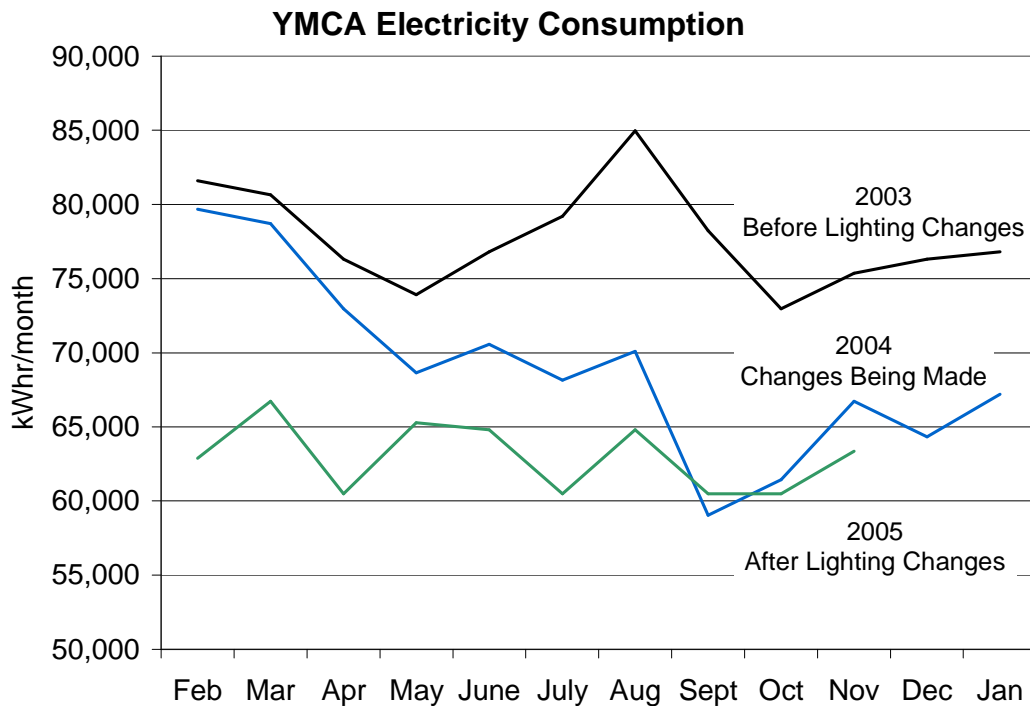
How Can Your Organization Benefit?

Contact the Saskatchewan Environmental Society to see how your organization can save money by reducing energy consumption. We have programs to work with:

- Non-Profit Organizations
- Small Businesses
- Teachers and students
- Office Staff
- Building operators

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