



PPL Electric Utilities

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COVER STORY

Energy efficiency casts savings at Benton Foundry

It traces its roots to the mid-19th century, but a Columbia County foundry's thoroughly modern approach to energy efficiency is saving both energy and money.

The Benton Foundry, located outside Benton, north of Bloomsburg, recently took advantage of PPL Electric Utilities' energy efficiency rebate programs, netting more than \$120,000 for the work done at the plant. That's in addition to saving more than \$100,000 per year in energy costs and reducing its carbon footprint.

The foundry got its PPL rebates after implementing changes suggested by an energy audit made possible by the Emerging Technology Applications Center at Northampton Community College with the

support of funding from the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and company matching funds. The foundry made LED lighting upgrades, installed compressed air controls, and implemented variable frequency drives for three baghouses that control emissions.

PPL has been providing power to the foundry for a long time. More than two decades ago, a 69-kilovolt transmission line was completed between the town of Benton and the foundry, allowing for the installation of two large electric furnaces. Benton's iron castings are used by hundreds of clients across the U.S. It currently employs about 240 people.

"We're proud of the Benton Foundry and all it's been able to accomplish and pleased our

energy-efficiency rebates are part of their ongoing success," said John Davis, director of Business Services and Strategy for PPL Electric Utilities.

"One of our largest cost drivers is energy," said Tim Brown, foundry vice president.

The variable frequency drives installed at the foundry will save nearly two million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, according to Brown. In addition, the foundry will be working on another project with PPL to help make Benton's furnaces operate more efficiently.

"For the Benton Foundry, it's about working smarter, not harder," Brown said.

? Ask Marilyn

Q: Are all LEDs the same? Is there a way to tell the difference between efficiencies?

A: A good barometer is lumens per watt, the rate at which the LED is able to convert power (watts) into light (lumens). The higher the lumens per watt, the more light the LED fixture is able to produce at a lower wattage, saving you more energy. Of course, LEDs overall last longer and are more efficient than compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and way more than incandescent bulbs.



Have a question for our energy expert? Email us at connect@pplweb.com.



Electrical safety on stage

More than 50,000 students have now seen The Safety Detectives in Hot Pursuit, a high-energy show designed to teach youngsters life-long lessons about staying safe around electricity.

Part of that total includes more than 8,000 children across our service territory who saw the show from April 16 to May 4. The spring tour was part of our plan to deliver electrical safety lessons to 100,000 students over a five-year period.

The shows are performed by actors from the National Theatre for Children, a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization.

Our goal is to teach children in an entertaining way, so they remember these lessons for a lifetime. The goal is not only to keep the kids safer, but to have them share the lessons they learned with their family and friends.

Is energy efficiency on your menu?

Restaurants are usually pretty busy places and using energy wisely may not always be your first thought if you own or manage any kind of eatery.

With these tips from the federal government's ENERGY STAR® program, you can have your cake and eat it too!

- **Maintain and repair.** Leaky walk-in refrigerator gaskets, freezer doors that do not shut, cooking appliances that have lost their knobs—all these “energy leaks” add up to money wasted each month.
- **Cut idle time.** If you leave your equipment on when it is not performing useful work, it costs you money. Implement a startup/shutdown plan to make sure you are using only the equipment that you need, when you need it.
- **Recalibrate to stay efficient.** The performance of your kitchen equipment changes over time. Thermostats and control systems can fail, fall out of calibration, or be readjusted. Take the time to do a regular thermostat check on your appliances, refrigeration, dish machines, and hot water heaters and reset them to the correct operating temperature.
- **Cook wisely.** Ovens tend to be more efficient than rotisseries; griddles tend to be more efficient than broilers. Examine your cooking methods and menu; find ways to rely on your more energy-efficient appliances to cook for your customers.

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PPL Electric Utilities' energy-efficiency and customer assistance programs were among the main attractions at the Lehigh Valley Cops 'n' Kids celebration in Bethlehem in late April, an event that drew more than 3,000 people.

About 3,500 LED light bulbs were given away and income-eligible customers received energy-efficiency kits containing energy-saving items like a faucet aerator. Eligible customers also were able to sign up for assistance from the WRAP or OnTrack programs.

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