



# The Town of Chester, New York: New Lighting for a Busy Town Hall



LED  
LIGHTING

Located in the eastern fringes of the Adirondacks in Warren County, New York, the Town of Chester offers no shortage of services and activities for its more than 3,000 residents. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the Town engaged with National Grid to brighten their facility while saving on energy usage and energy costs.

The Town Hall acts as the hub of the area's activities—it's the central point in town. The facility offers much more than offices for the government's various departments; it is also a community center with a gym, senior center, library, museum and community room among other amenities.

The almost 90-year-old Town Hall utilizes 36,000 square feet of space for its 50 dedicated employees and the hundreds of residents who use the building each month.

In recent years, the Town of Chester's leadership explored a variety of options to improve the Town Hall's energy efficiency. In early 2019, the town was approached by Hill Electric Supply Co., a wholesale electrical supply store and a certified supplier affiliated with National Grid's Energy Efficiency Small Business Program, to explore various options to upgrade lighting throughout the Town Hall.

National Grid's Small Business Energy Efficiency Program puts customers in control of their energy-saving upgrades. As was the case with the Town of Chester, customers can select their preferred contractor (or be matched

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Marion Eagan, assistant to the supervisor of the Town of Chester.

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with one by National Grid) to perform energy-efficiency measures, while being able to take advantage of incentives up to 60% off. There are several upgrades that can be made under the Small Business Energy Efficiency Program, including lighting, lighting occupancy sensors, as well as refrigeration and cooling measures.

Once approval was secured, the town put the work out to bid and hired a contractor to replace all the lighting. The project bid would cost the town \$31,752.52 with an anticipated annual kWh reduction of 52,849.8—an annual savings of \$5,813.48. The town also took advantage of National Grid incentives worth \$9,512.97.

Nearly 350 new LED bulbs were installed throughout the Town Hall, replacing the facility's fluorescent lightbulbs. The longer life expectancy of the LED bulbs and the annual cost savings were a major factor in the Town's decision to move forward with the project. It took the contractor less than a week to install the LED lights.



350 new LED bulbs were installed throughout the Town of Chester's Town Hall, including the library.

"We were so impressed by the entire process," said Marion Eagan, assistant to the supervisor of the Town of Chester. "It ran so smoothly. My advice would be to work with a contractor that is accommodating. Our contractors managed to do all the work in a matter of days. They changed all the lights with zero disruption while we all continued to work."

#### An Unexpected Health Benefit

According to the National Headache Foundation, certain lighting can cause migraines, especially florescent bulbs.



New LED bulbs at the fitness center at the Town of Chester's Town Hall. The installation of the LED bulbs came with some unexpected health benefits.

In a 2017 study, 88% of those with migraines had attacks triggered or symptoms worsened by light. For the employees of the Town of Chester, this was certainly true.

"An unexpected benefit of this project has been directly related to employee health," Eagan said. "Before this project, a couple of people complained about migraines during the workday. Now with the LED lights installed, no one has complained about migraines."

#### Cost Savings

National Grid's Energy Efficiency Small Business Program helped the Town of Chester upgrade the lighting in its bustling town hall at an affordable price—leading to energy savings and health benefits.

**\$23,752**  
Equipment Cost

**\$8,000**  
Labor Cost

**\$31,752**  
Total Cost

**\$9,512**  
National Grid  
Contribution

**\$5,813** Estimated Annual  
Cost Savings

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