

Sam Did it and So Can You!

Sam Schmitt, Electrician for the Plymouth School District, faced quite a conundrum when searching for solutions for upgrading the lighting in the Plymouth High School Library. The existing fluorescent pendant style fixtures were installed when the high school was built 53 years ago and they were showing their age. Maintaining the system was becoming more problematic as the eight foot T12 fluorescent tubes and corresponding ballasts were no longer manufactured. Plus the ballasts were located in a remote location that was difficult to access.



Schmitt explored the idea of replacing the old pendants with new fixtures or eliminating them and installing new fixtures in the ceiling, however, these solutions were cost prohibitive. Since the fixture housings were still in relatively good shape, he decided to find a way to retrofit them with current technology. After discussing his dilemma with a lighting vendor, Schmitt found a solution that incorporated light emitting diode (LED) retrofit kits that could be fastened to each fixture after some minor modifications. The kits, made by [Keystone](#), are Design Lights Consortium (DLC) listed and thus qualified for a custom incentive from Focus on Energy. The end result was much improved light levels that gave the old fixtures a more modern appearance.



To top it all off, the new lighting is estimated to save nearly 6,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. In addition, the project was partially funded through incentives totaling more than \$720.00 from WPPI Energy and Focus on Energy.

Having already upgraded a portion of the PHS strength training room with LED tubes, Schmitt has now set his sights on possible LED upgrades for the PHS gym. He hopes to accomplish this with additional grant funds from WPPI and Focus on Energy as well as some budgeted funds.

WPPI Energy and Focus on Energy programs help all customers – residential, commercial, agricultural, institutional, and industrial - save energy. Those energy conservation efforts help Wisconsin customers manage rising energy costs, protect the environment, promote in-state economic development, and control Wisconsin's growing demand for electricity.