

# Energy use slashed but warehouse is “ten times brighter”

## Profile: URS Electronics

**Problem:** Poor, outdated lighting used too much energy and caused maintenance headaches for Mark Twietmeyer, owner of URS Electronics. He knew it was time for an upgrade, but didn't know where to start.

**Solution:** A free energy-efficiency class and free energy walkthrough from PGE pointed the way to new energy-efficient lighting. The upgrade made the warehouse and retail space much brighter. It also slashed energy use, cut maintenance costs and earned \$9,600 cash back in incentives and tax credits.



*“PGE gave me the roadmap.”*

– Mark Twietmeyer, President of URS Electronics

**Failing lights** were driving Mark Twietmeyer nuts. As president of URS Electronics, he prefers to find solutions for customers, rather than deal with maintenance issues.

“We have 15 employees; it's not like I have a maintenance crew,” he says. “So I'm the guy who has to get up on the ladder to fix things. I really don't like that.”

### **PGE class points the way**

With nearly one-quarter of the lights in his warehouse and retail space no longer functioning, Twietmeyer knew he needed help. He saw a flyer for PGE energy-efficiency classes for businesses and signed up.

During the free class he learned about the PGE energy walkthrough program and how to earn cash back on energy improvements.

Most importantly, he learned how to get started and where to go from there. “PGE gave me the roadmap,” he says. “I realized, ‘Hey, this is not going to be a big hassle. We can do this.’”

*find out more on the back >>>*

**Portland General Electric**

## **Company at a glance:**

URS Electronics, a leading distributor of electronic components, products and services, operates in northeast Portland from a 13,000-square-foot warehouse and retail space. With guidance from PGE, the company completed a major energy-efficiency lighting upgrade that made the space much brighter while also saving energy.

## **How can PGE help you?**

PGE can assist your business with free energy classes, free energy walkthroughs, billing and payment plans, renewable power options and other services. Contact the PGE Business Services Team at **503-228-6322** in Portland, **503-399-7717** in Salem, or **1-800-542-8818** outside of the Portland/Salem areas. Also find in-depth information online at **PortlandGeneral.com/Business**.

## Bottom-line savings

The roadmap led to a lighting upgrade that is projected to save 41,696 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. A \$3,800 cash incentive from Energy Trust of Oregon and a \$5,800 Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit covered 40 percent of the upgrade costs.

## Energy walkthrough spotlights savings opportunities

The first step after the energy class was a free PGE energy walkthrough. PGE Customer Technical Services specialist Verlea Briggs examined URS Electronics from top to bottom and wrote a summary report.

"She walked in and said 'Wow, it's dark in here.' We had all gotten to the point where we didn't notice it. In hindsight, it's about ten times brighter now," says Twietmeyer.

Briggs helped him through the process of meeting Energy Trust requirements and securing a contractor. "She guided me through the whole process from A to Z."

Mark Whitney, PGE lighting specialist, provided a third-party technical review of contractor proposals to assist Twietmeyer in reviewing his options.

## Less energy, less hassle

Oregon Electric, Twietmeyer's contractor, replaced T12 fluorescent lamp fixtures with more efficient high-performance T8 fixtures. They also swapped out incandescent fixtures for energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps.

The new lighting also lasts longer, so Twietmeyer doesn't have to climb ladders as often. "At my rate, that's a lot of expense saved, and it's a headache I don't have to deal with for the next five to 10 years," he says. "I can focus on my customers instead."



PGE offers technical reviews of lighting projects.

## Facts about energy-efficient lighting

- *Lighting consumes 25 to 30 percent of the total energy used in most commercial buildings, making it a highly cost-effective first step in your energy management plan.*
- *High-performance T8 fluorescent lighting with electronic ballasts can provide energy savings of 40 percent or more over old T12 lighting.*
- *Compact fluorescent lighting uses about two-thirds less energy, lasts about 10 times as long and produces much less waste heat than incandescent light bulbs.*
- *Turning off lights in unused areas, or installing timers or motion detectors, can also save on energy costs.*
- *Find more lighting information at **PortlandGeneral.com/SaveEnergy.***



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