

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School

NONPROFITS | ENERGY SAVINGS



Ashley Lewis | Principal |
St. Mary of the Assumption
Catholic School

Sometimes it's who you know

At the close-knit, 250-student St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School in Upper Marlboro, Md., everyone seems to know everyone. And that helps explain how a parent was able to set in motion a plan that brought the school thousands of dollars in new lighting incentives and subsequent energy savings.

The opportunity

Like many private schools in the area, the St. Mary building is older and not entirely modernized. On top of that, budgets can be tight, so principal Ashley Lewis can only pursue improvements that are either absolutely essential or fiscally responsible.

"We love our building," says Lewis. "We work really hard to keep it bright and colorful, but the reality is the building was built in the 1960s. So, a lot of the grants we receive go toward maintaining the A/C, the heat, the water, and the things that are necessary for our students to thrive here."

The school never considered lighting upgrades to be necessary until a parent brought the possibility of energy-saving LED bulbs—and the rebates that came with them—to the school's attention.

"A parent reached out and said, 'I work with this guy. He keeps talking about this incentive program. You should connect with him,'" says Lewis.

That individual was Jason Kim from CS Koida, an energy efficiency Service Provider that undertakes large-scale upgrade projects around the country.

Savings at a glance

Pepco Energy Savings for Business

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School completed several energy-saving upgrades and projects throughout its facility, leaving more money to better serve its students.

Program costs

\$50,950

total project cost

– \$35,173

incentive

\$15,777

net project cost

Estimated annual savings

31,315

kWh per year

\$32,914

per year

CS Koida suggested that St. Mary replace the older lights in its building with brighter, more energy-efficient alternatives. Assuaging the school's fears of high costs, CS Koida also introduced Pepco's cost-covering grant program to St. Mary's administrators.

The upgrades

This project, which completely replaced all the lighting in the school, was conducted in two phases—classrooms and hallways first, followed by the gymnasium and the school's larger rooms. And it all happened over spring break with very little disruption to the students and faculty.

"Honestly, there weren't a lot of challenges," Lewis recalls. "It was a pretty seamless program once we got in contact with the right people."

This seamlessness continued when it came to applying for the Pepco rebates, a process that Lewis found to be easier than expected.

"It was definitely easier than we thought," says Lewis. "When we work with different grants and rebate programs, some of them sound great on the surface, but there are catches and we end up paying more than what we anticipated. This was not the case with Pepco. We had no problems with this program."

The benefits

Since the lighting upgrades were completed, St. Mary has seen energy savings of 31,315 kWh and cost savings of \$32,914.

While Lewis anticipated these energy and cost savings, she was surprised to discover how much better the LED bulbs perform.

"With this very white lighting, we no longer have that yellow-orange tint that we used to," says Lewis. "I never would have thought that it would make such a drastic difference."

None of it would have been possible without the rebate program from Pepco.



"Without this program, we would not have looked into upgrading our lights until they became a problem. The lighting is not something that I would have thought of right away as something that needed our attention. The Pepco program definitely made this possible."

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The Pepco Energy Savings for Business program provides financial incentives and technical assistance to help businesses maximize energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. Financial incentives can cover up to 70% of project costs.

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