



Elijah's Promise

Improving Sustainability and Savings through Energy Efficiency

PROJECT INFORMATION

Organization

- **Elijah's Promise**

Location

- **New Brunswick, NJ**

Project Contact

- **Jim Zullo**

Direct Install Project

- **T8 lighting, LED lamps, occupancy sensors**
- **\$10,777 project cost**
- **\$7,544 in incentives received**
- **Annual Energy Savings of 25,303 kWh**
- **Annual Cost Savings of \$3,730**
- **Project Payback of less than one year**

NJ SmartStart

Buildings Project

- **Efficient refrigerators & freezers**
- **\$22,000 project cost**
- **\$1,450 in incentives approved**
- **Annual Energy Savings of 13,021 kWh**
- **Annual Cost Savings of \$1,919**

Project information, savings and environmental benefits were provided by the project contact.



The team at non-profit food provider Elijah's Promise is expected to enjoy \$5,649 in annual energy savings thanks to efficiency improvements made through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™*.

"Financial incentives from *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* made these energy efficiency upgrades and equipment purchases a reality. Without them, these projects would have been delayed until we found an adequate funding source," said Jim Zullo, Executive Director of Elijah's Promise.

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Background

Elijah's Promise started out as a small soup kitchen in 1989. The non-profit now operates a community soup kitchen, culinary arts school, catering business, pay-as-you-can café and a fresh foods market which supports the organization's charitable efforts. Elijah's Promise serves more than 100,000 meals annually to those in need, which consumes a great deal of energy.

Challenge

As an entity that's highly committed to sustainability, the facilities at Elijah's Promise needed to become as energy efficient as possible, both to reduce the non-profit's carbon footprint and also to reduce operational costs. Every dollar saved is another dollar that could be funneled into the organizations all-important mission of feeding the hungry.

During review of their operations goals, Elijah's Promise discovered upgrades to their electrical and mechanical systems aligned with the incentives available through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*. They determined that there were systems that could be improved which would lower operational costs and ranked them in order of greatest savings potential. The real challenge was to address the lack of sufficient capital to undertake such a large project.



Elijah's Promise was able to identify significant opportunities for energy savings through high-performance T-8 fixtures and LED lighting retrofits.



Food service operations use about 2.5 times more energy per square foot than other commercial buildings. Elijah's Promise will save approximately \$1,919 annually with ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.

Solution

Elijah's Promise worked with the professionals at *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* to identify the financial incentives and programs available for the much needed upgrades. Two programs in particular opened up the doors for the non-profit's project, the Direct Install and SmartStart Buildings Programs. With the pre-approvals in hand, Elijah's Promise could now start to implement their upgrade plan.

The first undertaking was to replace the existing, inefficient work area lighting in both the soup kitchen as well as the general office space. New T8 and LED A-lamp technologies were used combined with occupancy sensors to optimize operation and save energy. At the same time all incandescent exit signs in the facility were replaced with LED versions to further reduce costs. This upgrade cost \$10,777, but the Direct Install program covered \$7,544 of those costs. With an estimated annual energy savings of 25,303 kWh Elijah's Promise expects to save approximately \$3,730 in electricity cost per year. As a result, this portion of their upgrade project should pay for itself in less than one year.

The next area targeted for an efficiency upgrade were the refrigerators and

freezers needed for the growing food market. Elijah's Promise purchased \$22,000 worth of ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerator and freezer units which made them eligible to receive \$1,450 in rebates from the SmartStart Buildings Program. The new equipment is anticipated to save approximately 13,201 kWh and \$1,919 per year in comparison to standard efficiency units.

Benefits

In the first year of operation, these energy efficient projects are estimated to decrease electricity consumption by 38,324 kWh and should save Elijah's Promise approximately \$5,649 on its energy bill annually.

The installed cost of the measures totaled \$32,777. With the Direct Install and SmartStart Buildings Program incentives totaling \$8,994, the project should produce payback in just over three and a half years.

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