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Mullen Center gym gets energy-saving lighting makeover

Media Release

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The Mullen Center gymnasium has a new energy-saving, environmentally-friendly lighting system – and it cost the City nothing.

The retrofit of the City's 14-year-old community center took just three days to complete in late May. During that time, a City Facilities Maintenance crew replaced all 20 of the old compact fluorescent light (CFL) fixtures, which used 356 watts of current each, with 20, 96-watt LED lamps.

“The change-out went rather smoothly – it was not really complicated,” said City of North Port Property Maintenance Manager Lou Spurduto. “The reduced maintenance frequency is going to be important for us. And it's a nice clean light, rather than the yellowish light produced by the CFLs.”



Each of the old CFL fixtures contained nine 36-watt lamps, plus ballasts, which together consumed 356 watts of electricity per fixture. So each new American-made LED lamp saves 260 watts, or 5,200 watts in energy savings for all 20 of the new lights.

The avoided energy consumption will save the City about \$3,504 a year. Because the LEDs generate far less heat than CFLs, the energy savings attributable to reduced air conditioning costs alone are expected to be \$808 per year.

The Mullen Center gym is one of the first facilities in the nation to be lit by the 96-watt LEDs, which were just recently released to the market. Amazingly, the life expectancy of these lamps is anticipated to be over 23 years, in contrast to the four-year lifespan of a CFL tube.

All of these numbers – the avoided maintenance and lamp replacement costs, together with the energy savings – total over \$116,675 in anticipated total savings over the lifespan of one set of LED lamps.

Energy conservation measures like this project are commonly evaluated in terms of their return on investment, or ROI. Here, too, the

new LEDs shine brightly. The City expects to recover over 44% of its investment annually, meaning that total cost recovery will occur in just over 2.25 years.

Over the course of the LED lamps' expected 23-year lifespan, the lighting retrofit will prevent the release into the atmosphere of over 93.25 million pounds of greenhouse gases, a byproduct of electricity generation.

To top it all off, the total cost of the lights (\$11,447) is covered by North Port's federal Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, which also paid for the residential rebates and loans distributed under the City's recently concluded Get Energy Smart Retrofit Program.

The LED lamps are engineered and manufactured in the USA, and sold by the company's master distributor, Eco-Smart, Inc., of Sarasota.

The George Mullen Community Activities Center is located at 1602 Kramer Way, just off City Center Boulevard in the City government campus that includes City Hall. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on the City's Community Centers, call (941) 429-7275, or email parks@cityofnorthport.com.

For more information about this LED retrofit project, contact North Port Community Outreach Manager Erin Bryce, (941) 429-7165, or Matt Ross, President, Eco-Smart, Inc, (941)376-8484.