

BUSINESS CASE STUDY: WASHINGTON

Yakima Union Gospel Mission

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Project overview

Since 1936, Yakima Union Gospel Mission has provided emergency and long-term services to community members experiencing homelessness. The Mission initiated a WattsSmart[®] Business project to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity costs and provide a safer and more welcoming environment for the clients they serve.

ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS

265,742 kilowatt-hours

ANNUAL UTILITY COST SAVINGS

\$19,504

TOTAL PROJECT INCENTIVE

\$127,590

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

WattsSmart Business provided energy consulting services to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, save utility costs and receive incentives from Pacific Power. This energy efficiency project was carefully evaluated and organized to ensure the Mission's lighting upgrades required minimal out-of-pocket costs.

“The experience working with WattsSmart Business was pleasant and hassle-free. Everyone was very flexible, and they wanted to get the maximum amount of benefit back to the Mission with zero cost.”

— Marty Davis, Mission director of facilities

A vital community resource

Since 1936, Yakima Union Gospel Mission has changed the lives of people experiencing homelessness, providing everything from free meals to free medical and dental care, housing for adults and families and trauma-informed addiction recovery. In the building where so many find the help they need, an opportunity for improvement emerged.

“This particular building was built in 1959, and it's been through a lot,” said Marty Davis, the Mission's director of facilities. “Looking up at the ceiling you would see old, dingy light fixtures with mismatched colors. It felt like this is a place still in transition.”

Davis explored working directly with an electrician, spending months going back and forth trying to get started before turning to Pacific Power's WattsSmart Business program.



Recovery services, program meeting space



Care center, dental facilities



Marcelino Osorio (left), Wattsmart Business Vendor Network, and Marty Davis (right), Yakima Union Gospel Mission



Thrift store



Food bank

Above and beyond

What Davis found with Wattsmart® Business was far more than a lighting solution—it was a true partnership. He connected with Marcelino Osorio, diversity and community outreach coordinator for Wattsmart Business, to learn about the Mission's options. Osorio recommended bringing in an approved Wattsmart Business vendor to conduct a lighting assessment.

"I knew we had old lighting that needed to be replaced, but I really didn't know where to start," said Davis.

The Wattsmart Business team divided the single large-scale project into five smaller projects. The Mission qualified for additional incentives because of its location in a highly impacted community, defined by the Washington Department of Health as a community covered or partly covered by federally defined Tribal jurisdictions or a community experiencing a disproportionate share of environmental health burdens.

Thoughtful planning

The project required careful planning because the Mission's services could not be interrupted. "We have people all over the place," said Davis. "We had to make sure there was minimal disruption across our campus. For example, they did upgrades in our kitchen overnight so that it wouldn't interrupt our meal services."

"We were able to qualify all of the projects under the Wattsmart Business program," said Osorio. "But this was about more than lighting upgrades. Throughout the project, we were able to appreciate everything the Mission does for the community."

Dignity, safety and efficiency

For Davis, improving the facilities is a way of showing how the Mission team cares about the people coming to them for help.

"We serve a population that is often overlooked," explained Davis. "We want to create an environment that is dignified and shows these people that we love them exactly how they are."

The better lighting not only changed how the building feels, it also significantly improved safety and efficiency. New exterior lighting in the parking lot reduced tripping hazards and made unloading trucks easier. Brighter lighting in the food pantry helps the staff with sorting and clearly seeing expiration dates. And better lighting in the recycling warehouse makes organizing and distributing clothing donations more efficient.

Protecting donor dollars

The Mission relies on generous financial support from donors, and thanks to the Wattsmart Business program, no donor funding was used for the lighting upgrades. "Wattsmart Business found a way to cover all the costs for the materials and labor, so we can let our donors know their dollars can go even further," said Davis.

Even more improvements are on the horizon. "There are other ways Wattsmart Business can help, from HVAC to hot water heater upgrades to smart thermostats," said Osorio.

ABOUT WATTSMART® BUSINESS

Pacific Power's Wattsmart Business program makes it easy for small, mid-size and large businesses to save energy, money and time when making important upgrades to their facilities. Services include providing energy assessments and engineering to quantify energy savings and cash incentives. Many businesses receive incentives to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses and minimize cash-flow impacts.

LET US HELP YOU GET STARTED

For more information about how we can help your business:

- Visit [BeWattsmart.com](https://www.BeWattsmart.com)
- Email WattsmartBusiness@PacificPower.net.
- Call our energy experts toll free at **1-855-805-7231**.

There are some requirements to qualify for incentives, so it is important to call us **before** you start your project.