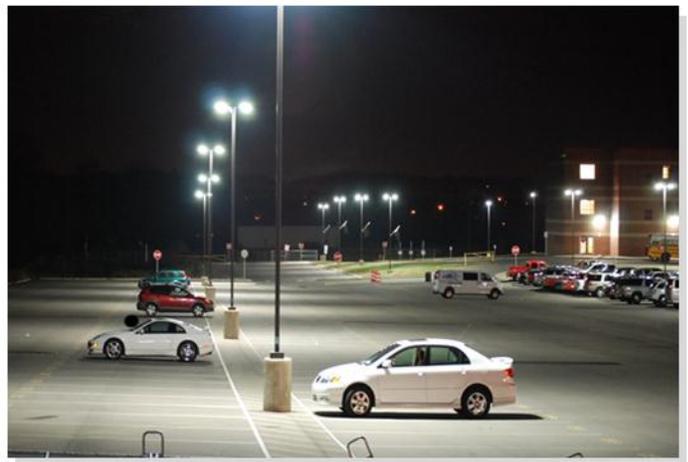


Wilson County Schools Utilize Induction Lighting to Save \$19,000 Annually



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Caleb Schwend
Poplar Hill Companies

The Wilson County School system, located in Tennessee, is committed to excellence in all areas of education. Serving more than 15,000 students the school system has 12 elementary schools, two middle schools, four high schools, one alternative school, an adult high school, and an adult basic-education program. All-together the system is made up of 21 facilities.

Starting in 2010, the county enabled the school system to outfit these school campuses with new lighting solutions. Whitehead Energy Solution experts

visited the school campus and conducted a lighting analysis. Based on the analysis, a proposal was submitted recommending that Wilson County School System retrofit with induction lighting.

Whitehead Energy Solutions and Poplar Hill Companies worked with the Wilson County School System to utilize induction lighting to save nearly \$19,000 a year in energy cost savings. With their high efficiency MHT exterior induction lighting design, the county saved over 445,000 kWh annually. That amount of



kWh is equivalent to the average annual consumption of more than 41 average sized homes.

Caleb Schwend, Vice President with Poplar Hill Companies, the electrical contracting and construction partner tasked with design and installation, said the original design was very inefficient. “There were about 11 different fixture and lamp combinations in use which were metal halide or high pressure sodium. Both the reliability and longevity were not optimal,” he explained.

The obvious solution was induction lighting for its long life and zero maintenance. This technology has been around since the 1890’s and is a proven platform. We decided on three wattage solutions across all campuses, 200, 150, and 100 watt.”

Nearly 450 wall pack and pole-mounted fixtures were replaced in the fall of 2010.

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“One of the things we were most excited about was that there were zero out-of-the-box failures. This is phenomenal in the lighting business. We moved the product a few times before they were installed and still no problems. The quality level is very high,” said Schwend. “Those installations are still working for us and we haven’t had any problems. We are very pleased with the results.

“Lighting upgrades are really among the easiest of projects to undertake and still get some serious energy savings,” Schwend goes on. “This project was completed in the fall of 2010, with an ROI of less than 5 years. When you factor in maintenance savings, replacement costs, and installation incentives, the ROI time is further reduced.

“Lastly, one of the benefits we realized on the project was the fact that the picture quality for the HD security cameras for each campus were greatly improved.

“We knew the CRI (color rendering index) for the property would be improved for each location but we didn’t realize at the time how it would benefit the public safety for the students and faculty.”