

ONE-STOP EFFICIENCY SHOP®

# Lester Building Systems

## Project Background

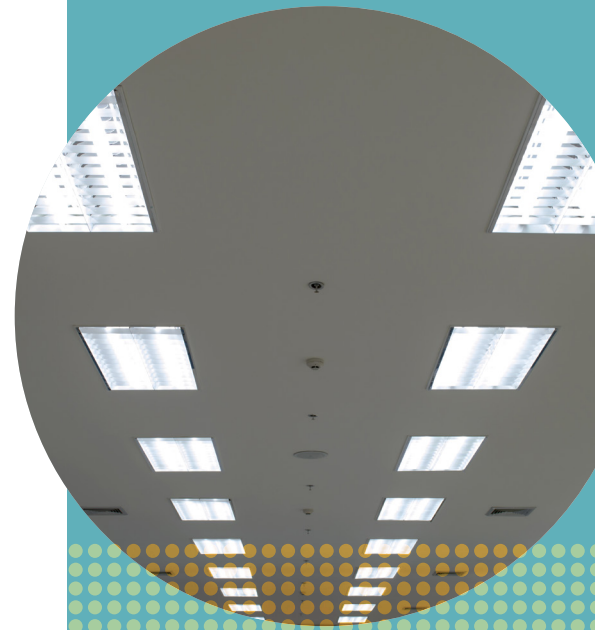
Lester Building Systems had a goal to decrease their energy costs by **15%–20%** at their facility in Lester Prairie, MN. They tried to conserve energy by turning off lights at the end of shifts and installing smart thermostats, but still weren't seeing the savings they wanted. To meet the company's efficiency goals, Lester Building Systems turned to the One-Stop Efficiency Shop lighting program for help.

## Facility Assessment

During a free lighting assessment at Lester Building Systems, a One-Stop lighting consultant found inefficient halogen lights throughout the building. The old lighting took a long time to warm up and produced excess heat in the summer. They were also too dim and made working conditions dangerous. The lighting consultant pointed out where LED lighting would be most beneficial, and in some cases recommended replacing two fixtures with just one LED fixture. This ensured that Lester Building Systems upgraded to the most appropriate light levels for the space while maximizing the efficiency and rebates for the project.

## Improvements

Lester Building Systems decided to upgrade their office space and exterior lighting with the potential to expand upgrades into their main production space in the future. Working with the One-Stop team gave them the flexibility to make the most urgent and cost-effective upgrades first, and then take the time to find the right solutions for lower priority areas. The new lighting significantly improved working conditions throughout the facility. The brighter office lights made it easier for employees to do their jobs and the LEDs outside made deliveries safer.



**“We had really old halogen lights that took forever to warm up, were massively inefficient, produced excess heat in our buildings in the summer, and the bulbs kept going out.”**

**Tyler Bennett**  
VP of Manufacturing



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Visit [mncee.org/onestop](https://mncee.org/onestop) to learn more about the One-Stop Efficiency Shop



## Problems

- High electricity costs
- Frequently burnt-out lighting
- Halogen lights took a long time to warm up and produced excess heat
- Employee safety concerns due to dim lighting

## Solutions

- Retrofitted office area and exterior with LEDs
- Replaced double halogen fixtures with single LED fixture to save money
- Started with the most important upgrades with flexibility to upgrade more lights in the future

## Annual Savings

### Interior Lighting

**\$2,450**  
in annual savings

**\$1,413**  
rebate

**20,200**  
kWh saved

### Exterior Lighting

**\$1,834**  
in annual savings

**\$1,529**  
rebate

**29,146**  
kWh saved

“We're living on a planet with finite resources and we're mindful of that. We were able to become more energy efficient and it made great business sense.”

**Tyler Bennett**  
VP of Manufacturing

Center for Energy and Environment's (CEE) One-Stop Efficiency Shop<sup>®</sup>, sponsored by Xcel Energy, is a free lighting consulting and rebate program designed to help businesses save energy and reduce operating costs through lighting upgrades.

Visit [mncee.org/onestop](http://mncee.org/onestop) to learn more.