

ONE-STOP EFFICIENCY SHOP®

Once Upon a Child

Project Background

Al Dahlgren, a franchise owner of Once Upon a Child, a store that buys and sells children's clothes and toys, struggled with high electricity bills and frequent fluorescent tube burnouts. These issues were costly and time-consuming, as Al was calling in electricians often to replace fluorescent ballasts at the store in Waite Park, MN. Al knew rebate options were available for upgrading to efficient LED lighting, but finding the right information for his business was a challenge. A call from a One-Stop Efficiency Shop lighting consultant was exactly what he needed to get on track for lighting upgrades.

Facility Assessment

The One-Stop lighting consultant conducted a free lighting assessment to determine the best LED options for the space. Al needed low maintenance lights that would match the aesthetic of the store. The lighting consultant created a customized report with recommendations, estimated payback periods, energy savings, and rebates to help Al make the best decision for his business.

Improvements

With guidance from the lighting consultant, Al replaced fluorescent ballasts with two different styles of 4' LED tubes. These lights had a much longer life expectancy and were easier to maintain, allowing Al to do much of the maintenance himself. The new lights also improved the aesthetic throughout the store with whiter lighting in the shopping area and warmer lighting in the office.



“CEE recommended a trusted contractor. They did a great job — were clean, courteous — and there was very little disruption to my business and customers.”

Al Dahlgren
Franchise Owner



ONE-STOP EFFICIENCY SHOP®

Visit mncee.org/onestop to learn more about the One-Stop Efficiency Shop



“Energy costs were high and every other month I was hiring an electrician to replace ballasts. We now have two different lighting styles and 95% of the bulbs are the same. Maintenance will be much easier, and I’ll be able to do it myself.”

Al Dahlgren
Franchise Owner

Problems

- Frequent fluorescent tube burnouts and high maintenance costs
- Confusion about lighting rebate options
- Poor lighting quality and color for displaying merchandise

Results

- Simplified lighting to two styles of 4’ LED tubes
- Maintenance is easier and can be done without an electrician
- Improved aesthetic and lighting color throughout the store
- Owner received optimal rebate and a fast project payback

Rebates and Savings

**\$2,377**
in annual savings

**23,273**
kWh saved

**\$3,469**
rebate

**1.3 year**
payback period

Center for Energy and Environment’s (CEE) One-Stop Efficiency Shop®, sponsored by Xcel Energy, offers free lighting consulting and rebates to help businesses save energy and reduce operating costs through lighting upgrades.

Visit mncee.org/onestop to learn more.