

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Video Transcript

-- The mission of the organization is really making a difference in the lives of low income people in the community. And when I go out and see kids light up like it's Christmas time because they got a bag of apples, that validates everything that I do in my life. So energy efficiency is really important to us. It makes us a better global citizen, it means that what we're doing is minimizing our carbon footprint.

- As an operations director, you're always looking for more ways to cut costs, and the more money we save, the more money we can put back into services. And the more and more we grow, we're using more and more energy.

- The Food Bank has two large warehouses, so there are quite a few energy challenges, from lighting to refrigeration.

- I received an email from Ryan Porter, our PG&E representative, and he explained that there was incentives and programs that would be beneficial to us.

- When I first walked in, I noticed that their warehouse lighting was inefficient, and under lit. So I knew that they were a good candidate for upgrading to LED lighting, which was going to be efficient and much brighter.

- The food bank has already had solar panels in place on our warehouse. And so this project with PG&E pairs really nicely with our goal to be green and using our resources well.

- When we did the evaluation, we realized that the costs of doing this were offset by incentives that were available to us, so our net costs ended up being minimal, if any at all.

- [Hashim] An upgrade like this means more food getting out to our community. Our annual savings is around \$15,500, which equates to about 30,000 meals.

- The process ended up being a lot quicker and less obtrusive than we originally had thought. They came in and changed out the lights really quickly, and it did not disrupt our work day at all.

- We are planning to look to upgrade our refrigeration units. It costs a lot of money to operate. And I'm going to be reviewing costs with Ryan to see if PG&E can come up with incentives and programs to help with that.

- If I could give another nonprofit a good piece of advice from this project, it would be "Don't be overwhelmed." The resources are out there. PG&E is ready to help, and we're ready to get started.

- I think working with PG&E on this energy enhancement project has been an incredibly positive experience that has minimized our costs and helped to make us a better operation.