



Showcase Project: LED T8 Retrofit. Forsyth GA School

Forest Lighting T8 LED Lamps Reduces School Energy and Maintenance Costs

LED Replacement Lamps Key to Cost-Effective Retrofit for Forsyth County, GA

About 25 miles north of Atlanta, Forsyth County is experiencing change unlike any other place in Georgia. Until a few years ago, it was just another friendly Southern community with a well-established way of life. And then, the explosive growth of the Atlanta suburbs caught up with Forsyth, and now 200,000 people call it home and the median income is the highest in the state.

Rapid growth brings with it a variety of challenges, including the local school system. From a handful of schools in the 80's, there are now 45,000 students in 35 schools... with 3 new high schools under construction. In order to keep rising costs under control, the county challenged its service departments to find ways to conserve, and reduce operating and maintenance costs. The electrical team responded.

“Our goal is to get under \$1 a square foot for electricity in all our buildings,” said Wayne Caston, Lead Electrician for Forsyth County. “As we got closer to that goal, it became clear that new lighting technology was a major opportunity for us. We have been monitoring the performance and cost of LED lighting products for years, and when the opportunity to work with Forest Lighting presented itself, we jumped at the chance to retrofit our first building.”

Forsyth's Academy for Creative Education building had 200 lensed troffers with T8 fluorescent lamps. In just a few days, Wayne's team completed the change-out to Forest Lighting T8 LED Linear Lamps. "We got the hang of it quickly, and the installation went smoothly," said Bo Weldy, Forsyth school electrician. "I could see right away that the LED lighting was better: cool, crisp and white. It's a good product."

"Usually teachers and students complain when we change the lighting," Caston continued. "But that was not the case this time. In fact, one teacher told me the lighting was now 'normal'; I liked that. My team and I are proud that the kids have an improved place to learn."

Stan Redd, another school electrician was also involved in the installation. "This project is a success. The Forest LEDs provide great light, with great color. We now have consistent light coverage in all classrooms, offices, work areas and hallways. If the opportunity presented itself, I would look forward to working with Forest Lighting again on retrofits and our new buildings as well."

Matt Russell, sales manager for Forest Lighting, spearheaded the project. "My family and I have lived on Forsyth County for generations, and I'm pleased that my company has improved the quality of the school facilities and provided a great environment for the kids. As one of the largest LED manufacturing companies in the world with installations in dozens of countries, I'm proud to see these products hard at work right here at home."
