



**Gary Watson**  
Simpson Lumber

## Case study

# Bright Rebates

"It was a good deal for this facility. The less energy we consume, the better for everyone."

## BRIGHT REBATES AT A GLANCE

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Tacoma Power can help update your facility's lighting and pay cash incentives for large and small projects.

**INCENTIVES:** 17 cents per first-year kilowatt hour saved, up to 70 percent of the total project cost.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Incentives available for commercial/industrial facilities in the Tacoma Power service area.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

#### SIMPSON LUMBER GOALS

- Improve working conditions by increasing light levels
- Reduce electric consumption
- Increase control of lights
- Reduce maintenance costs

#### EQUIPMENT INSTALLED

- High-performance T-5 fluorescent high bay fixtures inside
- Reduced wattage T-8 fluorescents
- Pulse-start metal halide fixtures outside
- Occupancy sensors and controls

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Annual kWh savings:	2,025,670
Equipment cost:	\$480,810
<b>Financial incentive from Tacoma Power:</b>	<b>\$308,122</b>
Special WSU incentive :	\$80,000
Net customer cost:	\$92,688
<b>Projected annual cost savings:</b>	<b>\$70,023</b>

#### PAYBACK PERIOD

- 1.3 years

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# New lighting means savings and safety at Simpson Lumber

## TACOMA POWER, SIMPSON LUMBER COMPANY LLC TACKLE CHALLENGING PROJECT AND SEE THE SAVINGS

It's looking brighter these days at Simpson Lumber Company LLC.

Simpson, the largest single-line saw mill in North America, produces up to 1.8 million feet of lumber a day. But now it does the work under 1,200 new energy-efficient fixtures and at a significant energy savings to the company.

Just a year ago, Simpson Lumber had lighting issues but wasn't sure how to address them. For a manufacturing facility, the 180,000-square foot building was too dark. Lights were burning 24 hours a day even though the production shift runs only 10 hours a day. There weren't enough controls to shut off lights in areas of the building not being used at any given time. And to top it off, because of the set-up of the machinery, the fixtures were difficult to access.

Those factors, combined with an economy that drove the company to find new ways to save money, led electric systems supervisor Gary Watson to investigate a major lighting update to the facility. But he was skeptical that anyone could make the needed changes

without disrupting production, and he wasn't that familiar with improvements to fluorescent technology that make today's lights much more appealing and effective.

### Working together

Together, engineers from Tacoma Power and the Washington State University Energy Extension created a plan that would help Simpson brighten the facility, gain more control over the lights and reduce energy consumption. They did it by replacing old metal halide fixtures with high-intensity fluorescents, adding motion and daylight sensors, and installing a bank of controls to operate it all.

Once the plan was in place, Tacoma Power engineer Roger Peery helped Simpson get the project ready for bid and later assisted in evaluating the bids.

"This was the hardest place to retrofit that I've ever seen," Peery said. "The contractor, Northwest Edison, really came through."

Now the lights are two to three times as bright, which improves safety at the

facility. And the new controls make operating the system easy – Watson can even start all of the facility's lights from his home computer.

Due to the changes, Simpson is saving an estimated 62 percent on the lighting portion of its power bill. Tacoma Power provided a \$308,000 incentive, while WSU kicked in another \$80,000.

"It was a good deal for this facility," Watson said. "The less energy we consume, the better for everyone."



Simpson Lumber mill in Tacoma



### ROGER PEERY – DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION

In the course of Roger Peery's 20-year career in the lighting industry, he's been impressed with the continued efficiency improvements to cutting edge lighting systems. The Tacoma Power engineer likes to use those improvements to help businesses increase their profits and reduce their energy consumption and electric bills.

"Improving a company's lighting system can be the most visible energy-saving measure a company can make,"

Peery said. "Every employee and customer experiences the benefits of improved lighting, and companies can save 40 to 50 percent or more energy with a new lighting system."

## Power Programs

As you plan energy-efficiency upgrades to your business, start by taking advantage of Tacoma Power's rebates and incentives.

- WALK-THROUGH ENERGY AUDIT
- ENERGY BILL PROFILE
- ZERO-INTEREST LOANS

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