

Pega Insurance

Creating an Upscale Office Space with Effective, Energy-Efficient Lighting

SMALL COMMERCIAL LIGHTING PROGRAM — CASE STUDY

Project Profile

Type of Space

Insurance
company office

Square Footage

1,635

Project Objective

Save money while
creating an
upscale, modern
image for
insurance
company

Project Benefits

Improved
appearance
Lowered utility
bills
Increased staff
productivity



Non-energy-efficient lighting was used in Pega's old office space.



Pega's new space uses effective, energy-efficient lighting.

Dan and Kevin Pezze, owners of Pega Insurance of Albany, New York, recently discovered a way to make their new office space modern and attractive. They chose to outfit their 1,635-square-foot office with effective, energy-efficient lighting instead of the proposed standard 2x2 lighting fixtures.

Pega worked with electrical contractor Timothy Woodin and Ken Latel of Lumen Power Sources, both Allies in the **New York Energy SmartSM** Small Commercial Lighting Program (SCLP). Together they created an environment that makes customers and employees feel comfortable while saving money on utility bills. By incorporating energy-efficient lighting into the initial design and development of their new office, Pega experienced no delay in occupying their space and no interruption to their business.

"Our old office space was harsh and old fashioned. This space looks great and is easy to work in."

— Rosemary Burch
Pega Insurance

Energy-Efficient Lighting Increases Employee Effectiveness

Pega's office space includes two private executive offices, six staff cubicles, a break room, a conference room, and a reception area. The lighting design accounts for the different lighting needs in these spaces and maximizes comfort, effectiveness, and efficiency in each area.

In the conference room and cubicle area, for example, direct/indirect lighting helps reduce direct and reflective glare on computer screens. In the private offices, low-glare recessed parabolic fixtures direct the light to the desktop where it is needed without causing excessive glare. Employees have reported an increase in productivity due to the reduced glare on their computer screens. Desktop task lights allow employees to control and adjust lighting to their needs.

The break room and private offices have motion sensors that turn lights off when the rooms are not in use, offering additional savings on the utility bill. In the conference room, low-wattage wall washers, controlled by separate switches, supplement the overhead lighting. Occupants can create different light levels for various tasks, such as discussions, paperwork, and projector-based presentations.



Pega's new upscale image and effective lighting are noticed by customers as soon as they enter the office.

Tech Specs

- Two-lamp direct/indirect suspended fixtures for general lighting; three-lamp 2x4 parabolic fixtures for private offices
- F32T8/741 linear fluorescent lamps
- Motion sensors in break room, private offices, and conference room
- 1.17 watts installed per square foot
- Average footcandles: 40 - 45 fc in private offices
- Estimated energy demand savings: 1.024 kW
- Estimated annual energy savings: 2,663 kWh (over \$200 per year)

The Bottom Line

Pega's original design called for a standard 2x2 lighting system that would have cost more than \$3100. By using a more efficient system, Pega received nearly \$725 in cash incentives from the **New York Energy SmartSM** Smart Equipment Choices Program for its energy-efficient lighting project, which reduced the net cost of the upgraded lighting materials to just \$2850. The new design costs less money, is more energy efficient, provides an upscale image, and produces less glare than the proposed design.

For More Information

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority offers businesses energy-saving opportunities through the Small Commercial Lighting Program. Additional programs can help businesses reduce utility costs, including the Smart Equipment Choices Program, which offers financial incentives to small businesses for energy-efficient lighting equipment.

To learn more about these incentives and to make your business' lighting more effective and efficient, visit www.nyserda.org/scslp or call toll-free 1-866-NYSERDA (1-866-697-3732).

"Our energy-efficient lighting system cost less than a standard system — and we will continue to see savings through lower utility bills. Our customers notice the difference in the lighting, and have told us how much they like the look."

— Dan Pezze
Owner
Pega Insurance