

# Saskatchewan Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative

## Advantages: convenience and cost-saving

Lighting upgrades: 30 to 40 per cent less electricity and better light

The most common office lights are T-12 fluorescent tubes controlled by magnetic ballasts. The ballast consumes as much power as does one of the tubes. The smaller diameter T-8 fluorescent tubes fit into the same fixtures and offer a higher quality of light with lower power consumption. The electronic ballast consumes almost no power.

### Capital Cost Comparison

Item	Retail	SPMC
1 electronic ballast	\$34	\$18.49
2 T-8 tubes	\$8	\$3.54
Total cost	\$42	\$22.03

### Time for Payback @ 10 cents/kWh for 205 hours per month

Monthly utility costs with one standard 2-tube fixture	\$1.85
Monthly utility costs with one upgraded 2-tube fixture	\$1.03
Simple payback at retail	51 months
Simple payback with SPMC price	27 months

Pilot project:

The lighting retrofit in the SARM head office reduced electrical use by about \$1300 a year. Four R.M. offices, Wilton, Willow Bunch, Whiska Creek and Milton had an average annual utility bill saving of about \$100 each.

If all 297 R.M.s upgrade just their office lights, their annual saving will be approximately \$30,000. That would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 300 tonnes annually.

The Office of Energy Conservation and the Saskatchewan Research Council also offer advice on saving energy in ice rinks. For example, after a spring energy conservation seminar, Esterhazy installed in low-e ceilings in two rinks, and they are on target for realizing a \$5,000 a year reduction in its energy bill. In the same rink they replaced the incandescent light bulbs in all 20 exit signs with light-emitting diodes. This will save them another \$500 a year.

For solar pool heating initiative, see other side of page.

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### Solar Heating of Outdoor Swimming Pools:

Natural Resources Canada's *Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative* provides grants of 25 per cent of the cost of qualifying commercial and municipal solar heating systems. SUMA is working with a Saskatchewan solar company to also provide SUMA members with an eight per cent discount on solar pool heating systems.



Installation of Bengough's solar pool heating system was completed in September, 2004. This system is expected to provide one hundred per cent of the pool's heat. The pool operates from late July to late August.

### Pilot Project:

When Bengough's natural gas bill for the pool went over \$3,000 a month, they started looking at alternative energy. They called the Office of Energy Conservation to ask for information on Solar heating. The gas boilers are still connected, but they don't expect to be using them any more.

Saskatchewan municipalities operate more than 100 outdoor swimming pools.

“There is more than enough solar energy for pool owners across Canada to heat their pools without a back-up heater from May through September.”

*An Introduction to solar pool Heating Systems*

Natural Resources Canada

[www.canren.gc.ca/solar](http://www.canren.gc.ca/solar)

For other energy conservation ideas visit [www.oec.ca](http://www.oec.ca) or call 1-800-668-4636.