

Magazine Highlights Hall County's Energy-Efficient Upgrades

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Hall County Government was featured in the fall 2014 issue of Georgia County Government magazine as part of the publication's "Sustainable Communities" article.

In the article, Hall County was commended for the sweeping upgrades it made to the lighting systems in county facilities, which were paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Since being awarded the grant in 2010, Hall County has replaced florescent lighting fixtures in county buildings with a more efficient, modern standard.

"We had so much of that stuff to cleanup, and we were able to go through the whole county and change out T12 to T8s," Brett Jockell, director of Hall County Buildings Maintenance, told the magazine. "That translated into a huge savings in dollars."

Electricity usage has decreased by 15 percent due to the lighting retrofits. Jockell also explained the profit margin for installing the new lighting was kept to a minimum since county employees did some of the work themselves.

Hall County has saved more than \$120,000 per year due to energy-saving measures such as lighting retrofits and HVAC updates. In addition, approximately \$200,000 has been saved annually in energy savings by consolidating government functions from five buildings into one, the Hall County Government Center. Hall County is also a national partner in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge, which recognizes organizations for their leadership and innovation in energy efficiency.