

POWER Grant

Helping businesses lower electric usage and demand

Little Falls PROFILE

Business Energy Audits • Project Design Assistance • Conservation Rebates • Grants

“City of Lights” Switches to LED

Strolling the historic downtown in Little Falls, Minn., is like walking back in time. The friendly shops, quaint storefronts, period-inspired street lamps, restored murals and decorative planters reflect the valued traditions of this Mississippi River town.

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to preserving the community’s history, heritage and hometown atmosphere. During the holidays and on special occasions, it draws residents and tourists to the historic downtown district with an elaborate “City of Lights” display. The spectacle lights up the town with 10,000 large, traditional holiday bulbs, outlining 53 buildings and adorning the streetscape.

This year’s display will be brighter and more beautiful than ever. Thanks to technical support and a **POWER Grant** rebate from Minnesota

Power, the community has switched from standard incandescent bulbs to brilliant, long-lasting, energy-efficient, light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights—without compromising the charm or character that residents and visitors have come to expect.

LED holiday lights are fast becoming the first choice for municipal and commercial lighting displays. They use 75 to 90 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs, last up to 10 times longer and are virtually maintenance free.

These benefits were very attractive to the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. The organization had struggled with year-round maintenance, replacing burned out and broken incandescent bulbs.

“Switching to LED lights allowed us to continue providing this popular attraction to the community.”

Debora Boelz
Chamber of Commerce President and CEO

“We were looking at options for maintaining the ‘City of



(Left to right) 1) Volunteers, including Justin Kalis, an employee of Central Minnesota Electric, helped string the new LED lights; 2) the “City of Lights” display outlines 53 buildings in Little Falls’ historic downtown; 3) Tanuj Gulati of Matt Haley & Associates, Mary Bindewald of Minnesota Power, Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Debora Boelz, and Elizabeth Bennett, intern of Matt Haley & Associates; 4) the historic Cass Gilbert Depot, which houses the Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is one of the buildings strung with LED lights.

Learn more about **POWER Grant**.

Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program
218-722-5642 or toll-free at 800-228-4966, ext. 2909

www.mnpower.com/powergrant/



POWER *Grants*

“Energizing Our Region” through Conservation Improvement

Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) works with local leaders, businesses, community groups, other energy providers and government entities to help customers reap the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable energy savings. Minnesota Power and its partners accomplish this through research, education, evaluation and direct impact initiatives.



Find out how **POWERGrant** can help you.

Minnesota Power awards grants to commercial/industrial customers who use innovative technologies, improve manufacturing processes, undertake renewable electric energy projects, or who need project design assistance. **POWERGrant** is available for a wide variety of projects employing diverse technologies.

Here are some examples of activities or products that could qualify for Minnesota Power funding under the **POWERGrant** Program:

- New electro-technologies that lower energy costs per unit of production in a manufacturing process
- Innovative technologies that are new and underutilized in our regional marketplace
- Inclusion of energy-efficient options in the design phase of a project

Maximum annual grants are determined by a customer’s average billing demand:

Customer Demand	Maximum Grant
Less than 100 kW	\$10,000
100 to 300 kW	\$25,000
Over 300 kW	\$50,000

Minnesota Power may consider higher rebate levels.

Other Minnesota Power Products and Services

In addition to **POWERGrants**, Minnesota Power offers commercial, industrial and agricultural customers other energy efficiency products and services. These include energy audits, rebates, dual fuel, storage/off-peak services, outdoor and area lighting, and economic development assistance.



Lights’ display, which had fallen into disrepair,” said Debora Boelz, Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. “Switching to LED lights allowed us to continue providing this popular attraction to the community.”

A local electrician and Chamber member suggested calling Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program about rebates for energy-efficient LEDs. Minnesota Power energy consultant Tanuj Gulati, of Matt Haley & Associates, provided technical assistance and calculated energy savings and rebates.

The new LEDs are expected to last 60,000 to 100,000 hours, saving more than \$2,000 in annual operations and maintenance. Anticipated energy savings are even more profound. By replacing the 7-Watt incandescent holiday bulbs with 1.32-Watt LED models, the community will conserve an estimated 52,256 kWh of electricity per year, lower monthly demand by 56.8 kW, and save \$5,000 in annual energy costs. A \$17,040 **POWERGrant** rebate brings payback to three and a half years.

Many Chamber members donated time and expertise to string the new lights, recognizing the display’s value to business and appreciating the cost savings and environmental benefits of LED holiday lights. It is a brilliant example of stakeholders coming together to make a difference and demonstrates the power of one community.

“It was wonderful to work with Minnesota Power on this project,” said Boelz. “They had our best interest in mind, helping us save energy and operate the ‘City of Lights’ display more efficiently with fewer meters.”

“The ‘City of Lights’ has made a name for Little Falls,” said Mary Bindewald, account representative, Minnesota Power. “It’s a nice way to promote the community and we were pleased to help.”