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Village Decoration going green with white light

SYRACUSE — Village Decoration Ltd. says it has made the effort to reduce its carbon footprint by upgrading all of its florescent lighting. With the help of National Grid and SmartWatt Energy, Inc., Village Decoration contends it will now save more than 18,500 kilowatt hours of electricity every year.

The Smartwatt Energy Services program was made possible by government grants given to National Grid for helping small businesses reduce electrical consumption. It offered Village Decoration a 70 percent savings on all materials and labor to retrofit its existing florescent lighting fixtures with new energy-efficient ballasts and T8 bulbs.

Village Decoration is a 35-year-old, production-pad printing, screen printing, and painting company offering services to many industries including medical, aerospace, automotive, and military.

SmartWatt Energy announced on Dec.

15 that the firm was named implementation contractor for National Grid's Small Business Energy Efficiency Program in the Central New York region.

SmartWatt Energy estimates that as many as 3,000 small businesses in Central New York State will qualify for this program, and result in more than 45,000 megawatt hours of electricity saved. Business customers with an average use of 100 kilowatts or less per month qualify for this program. Convenience stores, restaurants, warehouses, offices, car dealerships, and light-industrial manufacturers are examples of the types of businesses that may benefit from this program.

As National Grid's sole implementation contractor in this region, SmartWatt Energy will be helping small businesses by providing a free energy audit and report of recommended energy-efficiency improvements, then managing the installation of energy-efficient equipment. □