

Case Study – Portage, Michigan

“We liked the idea that Cost Control Associates, Inc. would do Energy Cost Recovery and Reduction™ analysis for the City on a contingency basis. Street lighting seemed like a good place to start and now Portage will save over \$40,000 during the next three years.”



Background

Residents of Portage, Michigan, enjoy living in a wonderfully progressive city with over two thousand acres of diverse recreational space to match the varied interest of its citizens. From active to passive recreation, the parks system in Portage offers unmatched diversity.

With a population of approximately 50,000, the Portage city limits contain almost 32 square miles. Because the city provides extensive street lighting for much of this area, Portage’s Traffic Engineer, Muhammad Arif, asked Cost Control Associates, Inc. (CCA) to begin their Energy Cost Recovery and Reduction™ analysis with the city’s street lighting system.

Street Lighting Analysis is just one of thirteen services that CCA provides to clients and it is one of the more difficult to achieve because it often requires physically surveying and accounting for each light and pole.

Solutions

Cost Control Associates’ **Cost Recovery and Reduction™** program uses the physical inventory to not only account for lights that may NOT exist, but to also analyze the cost, function and necessity of each fixture. The four basis steps of the process are:

- ✓ A complete physical survey
- ✓ Comparison of survey results to utility company records
- ✓ Refund computation and negotiation
- ✓ Provision of detailed inventory record

Fees for CCA’s services are paid out of the refunds and savings they produce. If there are

no refunds or savings, there is no charge to the client.

Results

Cost Control Associates’ field personnel created an inventory of street lighting facilities by driving streets in the city to record data on each street lighting facility.

When this data was compared to the inventory record used by the local utility for billing purposes, substantial discrepancies were revealed. Subsequently, Cost Control Associates filed a request with the utility to reduce the number of streetlights billed. When these Street Light billing adjustments were completed, the savings for the City of Portage totaled over \$13,790 annually.

Because Street Lighting Analysis is just one of the many services Cost Control Associates offers to its clients, these annual savings should produce the significant first step in the Energy Cost Recovery and Reduction™ process for the City of Portage.

Contact: Mr. Muhammad Arif
Traffic Engineer
City of Portage
Phone: (269) 324-9221
Email: arifm@portagemi.com