

## A Menu of Savings: Upgrading to LED Lights in Restaurants

*Industry focus: With each newsletter edition, we shine the spotlight on a specific industry or technology. If you are interested in hearing about your industry or a specific technology, feel free to email [info@efficiencysmart.org](mailto:info@efficiencysmart.org).*

In today's competitive market, many restaurant owners and managers seek ways to keep costs down without sacrificing quality. In many instances, significant energy and money savings can be achieved for businesses by replacing existing lights with more efficient alternatives. But for restaurants with a large focus on the presentation of their food and products, switching existing lights to anything new can be a daunting task.

The good news is that the quality of light-emitting diodes (LED) has significantly improved in recent years, allowing many restaurants to revisit a possible upgrade to efficient LED lighting. LEDs come in a large variety of colors, and in some cases, are able to be fine-tuned after installation to maximize the retail experience. Additionally, LEDs are becoming more affordable, and when combined with financial incentives from Efficiency Smart, upgrading is becoming more feasible.

Upgrading to LEDs also brings additional benefits, such as operating with less heat to reduce air conditioning costs and requiring less maintenance due to the increased lifespan of the bulbs. Some studies even suggest that since LEDs do not produce UV radiation, produce exposed to LED lights rather than standard lighting sources can stay fresher longer.

Efficiency Smart energy consultants recommend that any restaurant owner seeking to upgrade to efficient lighting sample a variety of LEDs to find the right light for their use. LEDs available at typical hardware stores are usually more focused on the residential market, and business owners might have better luck working with a commercial lighting supply company to find LEDs that meet their needs. Efficiency Smart has experience helping restaurant owners select lights to complete a successful lighting upgrade, and can also help you with your upcoming project. For more information about LEDs, contact [info@efficiencysmart.org](mailto:info@efficiencysmart.org) or call 877-889-3777.