

Graybar Brings Great Lighting and Energy Savings to the Raleigh Convention Center

The 500,000 square-foot [Raleigh Convention Center](#) located in Raleigh, North Carolina, includes a soaring street-level lobby, an elegant ballroom and a massive exhibit hall. Completed in 2008, the facility averages between 250-350 events per year and more than 440,000 visitors.

OPPORTUNITY

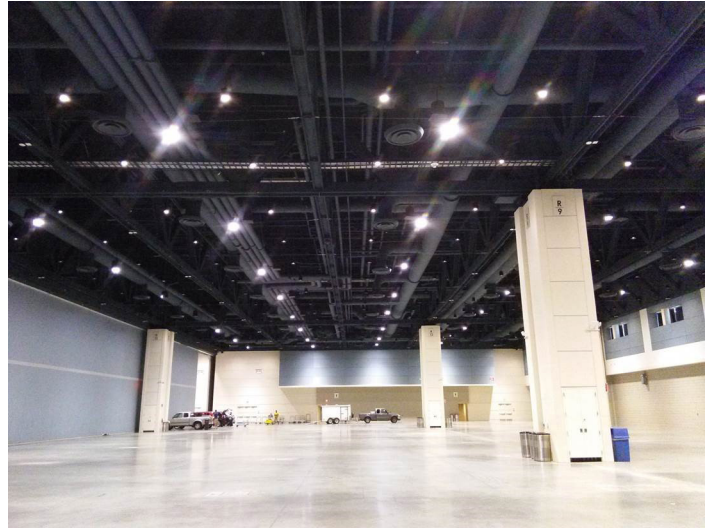
In 2014, Graybar worked with the Raleigh Convention Center on a lighting retrofit for its 45,000 square-foot underground delivery area. The retrofit consisted of replacing existing HID fixtures with high bay LEDs with integrated occupancy sensors from [Eaton's Crouse-Hinds series](#). The new fixtures helped to reduce energy usage by an estimated 18,480W per day, not including the additional energy savings from the occupancy sensors, which turn the lights off when no one is in the area.

So when the time came to upgrade the [lighting](#) of its exhibit hall, the Raleigh Convention Center turned once again to Graybar for a solution. Committed to having the most [environmentally efficient convention center in the nation](#), the Raleigh Convention Center wanted an energy-efficient solution that would uphold the aesthetic as well as functionality standards visitors expected.

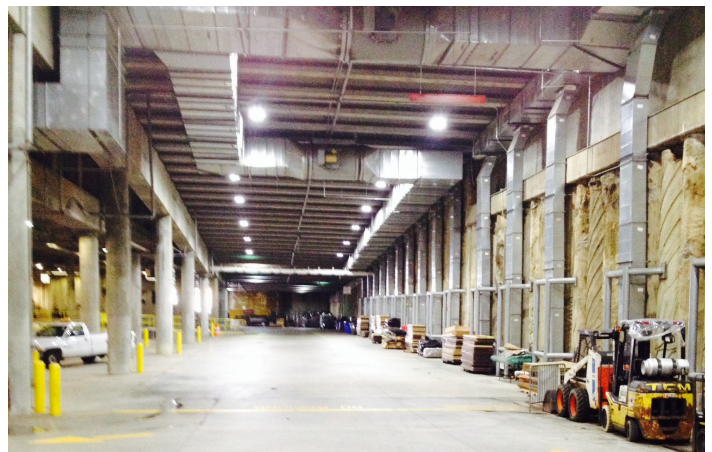
"We're always striving to make better environmentally sound choices," said Raleigh Convention Center Facilities Manager Tim Greene. "And saving on electricity is a no brainer. Looking back at the way LEDs have progressed and their longer lifespan, the benefits in converting from traditional lighting to LEDs just made sense."

SOLUTION

By utilizing the [U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Cooperative](#), Graybar helped the Raleigh Convention Center secure the right fixtures for the exhibit hall. According to their



The 150,000 square-foot exhibit hall now features a combination of LED high bays and cylinders paired with dimming controls.



The existing HID fixtures of the underground delivery area were replaced with high bay LEDs with integrated occupancy sensors.

"Before the lighting retrofit we were changing around 170 bulbs a year. Now, that number is down to zero."

-Tim Greene
 Raleigh Convention Center Facilities Manager

website, [U.S. Communities](#) is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state

government agencies looking for the best overall supplier government pricing.

The large, 150,000 square-foot exhibit hall contained approximately 160 sets of lights, with each set including one 750W HID and four 500W quartz fixtures. Graybar worked with several manufacturers to provide the convention center with a number of sample fixtures to install and evaluate based on functionality and appearance.

To replace the existing fixtures, Graybar proposed an LED combination that included 300W high bays and 85W cylinders, paired with [Lutron](#) dimming controls. With events being held year-round, shutting down the space to install the new fixtures was not an option. Instead, Graybar stored and received all fixtures at its local [Raleigh branch](#), and worked closely with the installer to deliver the fixtures for quick installation between shows.

RESULTS

Completed in October 2015, the convention center now has a much more modern and contemporary look. Plus, the lights turn on much quicker than before.

“Overall, the look is much softer and the lights are not as harsh as before,” said Greene.

In addition, the exhibit hall lighting upgrades have helped to significantly reduce energy usage and related maintenance by an estimated 318,230W per day.

“Before the lighting retrofit we were changing around 170 bulbs a year,” said Greene. “Now, that number is down to zero.”

Pleased with the results, the Raleigh Convention Center is currently working with Graybar to retrofit the lighting of its 45,000 square-foot ballroom, along with a number of other projects.

RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER

By the Numbers:

UNDERGROUND DELIVERY AREA:

- » Approximate number of fixtures: 65
- » Watts per fixture:
 - Before: 468W
 - After: 160W
- » Estimated Total Watts Saved Per Day: 18,480

EXHIBIT HALL:

- » Approximate number of fixtures: 750
- » Watts per fixture:
 - Before: 750W and 500W
 - After: 300W and 85W
- » Estimated Total Watts Saved Per Day: 318,230



To learn more about Graybar's U.S. Communities Program, visit graybar.com/uscommunities

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