

Enoch Pratt Free Library receives \$77,000 for lighting upgrades



What's the value of a library? For Baltimore, it's everything. A space to learn. A job center. A food pantry. An on-site social worker. A dedicated cooling center during a citywide Code Red Extreme Heat. And to top it all off, they even let you borrow the books.

From Poe to Fitzgerald to Coates, Baltimore's always been "the city that reads." Today, Charm City readers depend on another literary champion: Lloyd Robinson.

As Director of Building Services for the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL), Lloyd is charged with keeping the lights on, the HVAC pumping and the hot water flowing throughout all 23 branches. Simultaneously. Every. Single. Day.

"I try and keep it simple," says Lloyd, when explaining his approach to facilities management. "In my eyes, my job is to keep the doors open. Whatever it takes to keep those doors open, every day, to serve the public, well ... that's just what we're gonna have to do that day."

The EPFL is critical to Marylanders. Critical to the EPFL, its flagship: the Central Library, located in the heart of Mount Vernon.

With over half a million visitors a year, the Central Library, which also serves as the Maryland State Library Resource Center, is an entire library system onto itself. It houses 12 public service departments, including the Eddie and Sylvia Brown African American Department, the Earl Teen Center for Learning and Leadership and the Maryland Department. And, as one might expect, each unique department requires unique attention.

With so many vital departments to keep operating at once, there's one thing his team doesn't have time for: changing light bulbs.

"Lighting ... it's important. When you walk into a space that's nice, that's bright ... it makes you feel secure. And that's the feeling we want the public to have. At the end of the day, we want to show people we care."

— Lloyd Robinson,
Director of Building Services,
Enoch Pratt Free Library

The opportunity

"We were spending a lot of time changing light bulbs," said Lloyd, while giving a tour of the newly renovated Central Library Annex. Walking the stacks, it's easy to see why: Massive stone ceilings, sometimes three stories high, make lighting access no easy feat. They often require scaffolding to reach, tying up an entire crew in the process.

"When the library closes unexpectedly, you see the volume of people that come to the door ... they're so disappointed," continued Lloyd. "It's more than just the books. Some branches have a 'Lawyer in the Library' program, or they'll help you with your taxes. People depend on libraries. We had to keep the lights on."

That's when one of Lloyd's vendors suggested BGE's Direct Incentives Program through EmPOWER Maryland.

The BGE solution

In just 2 months, contractors **upgraded over 1,000 fixtures to energy-efficient LEDs** throughout the Eddie and Sylvia Brown African American Department, the Earl Teen Center for Learning and Leadership and the Maryland Department.

These upgrades are projected to **save the EPFL over 84,162 kWh a year**, putting real money back into the library system that can be used for improvements elsewhere. And through BGE and EmPOWER Maryland, **the EPFL received \$76,996 in financial incentives** toward the cost of these long-needed energy efficiency upgrades.

The benefits

For Lloyd, it's more than just staff hours saved and money put back into the system. It's about protecting the spaces that protect the people of Baltimore.

"Lighting ... it's important," said Lloyd, walking the Central Library with pride. "You enter a room and it's dimly lit ... it really doesn't give you a good feeling. But when you walk into a space that's nice, that's bright ... it makes you feel secure. And that's the feeling we want the public to have. At the end of the day, we want to show people that we care."

It may be easier to see than he knows.

Savings at a glance

BGE program:
Direct Incentives

Total project cost:
\$271,022

Incentives paid:
\$76,996

Cost to the customer:
\$194,026

Electricity savings:
84,162 kWh/year

Total GHG savings:
168.45 metric tons¹



The BGE Energy Solutions for Business Program provides financial incentives and technical assistance to help businesses and non-profit organizations maximize energy efficiency and reduce costs. Financial incentives cover up to 50% of the cost for retrofit projects and up to 75% of the cost difference between standard- and high-efficiency equipment for new construction and replacement of end-of-life equipment. For more information, visit [BGESmartEnergy.com](https://www.bgesmartenergy.com).

EmPOWER Maryland programs are funded by a charge on your energy bill. EmPOWER programs can help you reduce your energy consumption and save you money. To learn more about EmPOWER and how you can participate, go to [BGESmartEnergy.com](https://www.bgesmartenergy.com).

¹Source: Environmental Protection Agency, [epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator](https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator)