



## Simplot Food Group Will Reduce Energy Costs at Its Boise Headquarters Office by \$16,000/Year

### Situation

The J.R. Simplot Company, one of Idaho's largest employers, was seeking ways to reduce energy expenses for the Simplot Food Group's headquarters office in Boise. Based on her experiences while attending a number of conferences on energy efficiency, Linda Falter, Building Administrator, began working with Idaho Power to develop proposals for the 70,000 square foot facility.

### Challenge

In addition to making behavioral changes (such as turning off lights at night when only a minimal security crew was present), Linda started investigating a more energy-efficient infrastructure. However, one concern was the effect that the standard practice of "de-lamping" (i.e., replacing a larger number of older, inefficient fixtures with fewer, but more efficient, new fixtures) would have on lighting levels, environmental quality, etc.

### Solution

Bill Hines, lead liaison for Enterprise Electric on the project, came up with a helpful first step. A trial section of existing lighting was de-lamped and replaced with new fixtures so that Linda, employees and managers could see the actual effects. It quickly became apparent that the new lighting levels were as good or even better than the previous levels.

Based on these results, Simplot decided to move ahead and solicited proposals from a number of providers. They chose Enterprise Electric, based on our lighting design, pricing, ability to work off-hours (so as not to disturb employees during the business day) and quality reputation. As Linda summed it up: "Buy from suppliers known to you for their quality and service history, who you like and can trust their pricing."

Enterprise Electric worked with Linda and Idaho Power

to refine the retrofit plans, going through a number of iterations until the optimum design and installation plan was achieved. In just four weeks, a crew of three Enterprise Electric electricians—working after hours—retrofitted 1,667 old fixtures with new T8 lamps and ballasts.

Enterprise Electric was able to secure the entire rebate incentive amount available from Idaho Power (**over \$38,000**). The headquarters office of the Simplot Food Group will save **a total of \$16,481 a year**. Based on a net project costs, **the project will pay for itself in about 12 months**.

"Once you see how well a project like this can go, it encourages you to keep looking for new ways to reduce energy use," says Linda. "We look forward to working with Bill and Enterprise Electric again on future projects."

To learn more, please contact Bill Hines at 208-344-0441 or [bill@enterpriseelectricboise.com](mailto:bill@enterpriseelectricboise.com).