

## An auto repair shop drives big savings with energy-efficient upgrades

### Tuffy® Auto Service Centers

**Industry**

Automotive

**Building type**

Mixed

**Measures implemented**

Efficient T8/LED Lighting

**Total project cost**

\$3,207

**Projected annual energy savings**

9,168 kWh

**Incentives paid**

\$2,420

**Payback without AEP Ohio incentive**

Approximately 2 years and 7 months

**Payback with AEP Ohio incentive**

Approximately 8 months

**Program**

Express

**Project summary**

Tuffy® Auto Service Center in Lewis Center OH business owner, Roger Congrove, knew it was a no-brainer when AEP Ohio's Energy Advisor, Chris Eichler, stopped by to propose new lighting as part of the AEP Ohio Express Program – the energy efficiency program designed for small business.

Owner Roger Congrove was shown the potential to save money on his shop's energy usage and took action. The AEP Ohio Implementer installed 21 new fixtures and did one retrofitted. They improved the interior lighting of the shop by installing 88 T8 lamps and 22 ballasts. They even added three new LED exit signs. AEP Ohio paid over 75 percent of the lighting retrofit costs, reducing Tuffy's total cost to \$787.

**Business challenge**

Running a small business presents unique challenges. When business is great, time is limited, making it difficult to explore ways to lower costs. When business is slow, funds are limited. This is the challenge the AEP Ohio's Express Program is designed to meet.

**Solution – Express Program**

The AEP Ohio Implementer designed the project, purchased the fixtures and installed more energy-efficient lighting. Tuffy® was able to remain open during the lighting installation. The AEP Ohio Implementer also worked with Tuffy® on a daily basis to ensure business was not disrupted. Fixtures were replaced in the service areas during the shop's slow periods and the contractor moved their work to other parts during busy times.

**Key benefits**

Lighting is a big part of the electricity usage for Tuffy® Auto Service Center and important to properly service vehicles. The new T8 lighting has improved their shop. The shop staff is more productive and efficient while working because they can see better with the brighter lighting.



*"AEP Ohio did a good job and was very efficient. They didn't get in the way of our business at all."*

*- Roger Congrove, Owner  
Tuffy® Auto Service Centers*

**Next Steps**

Tuffy® Auto Service Center is looking into the possibility of installing outdoor LED wall packs under the AEP Ohio Express Program.

**Business Incentives from AEP Ohio**

Incentives help business customers purchase and install energy-efficient equipment. More details are available at **855-546-3644** or

**AEPOhioExpress@lime-energy.com**  
or at [www.AEPOhio.com/Solutions](http://www.AEPOhio.com/Solutions)