

Centerline Participates in Sustainable Economic Growth

The Ponca City's Lighten the Load Program was chosen as the recipient of the Henry Bellmon Sustainability Award for Responsible Economic Growth in October of 2014. The Lighten the Load program is a partnership initiative between the City of Ponca City, Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA), EnergyBank, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) and First National Bank and exists to assist Ponca City companies with their continued efforts in energy efficiency and cost reduction. To date, the Lighten the Load program has reduced local energy demand by over 6.5 million kilowatt hours and saved Ponca City participating companies over half a million dollars in operating costs.

The Lighten the Load Program partners, along with local industries, began this effort to lower energy costs through the installation of new, high efficiency lighting in August, 2012. The Bellmon Award for Responsible Economic Growth is truly an award to be shared by all the participating companies. To this end, the award statue will travel to all participating companies, spending a month at each facility. This month's spotlight company is Centerline, Inc. Centerline is the largest and one of the oldest independently owned spindle repair companies in the United States. Started over 20 years ago by Mike Engster, the company's central location in Ponca City and independent ownership has allowed them to concentrate on spindle repair and continue to grow that business with a focus to improving the quality of products and services.

Spindle repair is born of German engineering and manufacturing experience added to an American commitment to customer service and diverse, skilled personnel that take genuine pride in their craft. Spindles are used in a great variety of applications such as Grinding, milling and drilling that demand parts of the highest precision, ranging from the dental lab to the automotive and aircraft industries.

Centerline Inc., Precision Spindle Engineering is a spindle repair service company that also handles new spindle system requirements. When the Lighten the Load Project was presented to Stephan Engster, President, he thought the cost savings "were too good to be true" and stated "Laurence had to do some convincing for us to participate in the Lighten the Load project. He is a trusted third party and since he guaranteed the success of the project, we said 'Let there be light'". Engster added, "This project turned out to be good for us. There were some lighting direction changes needed after installation, but the company came back and made the adjustments, no problem." He also declared that until very recently, the OMPA rebate check received for energy savings on this project had been proudly displayed on his office wall.

Laurence Beliel, PCDA Director of Business Retention and Expansion who accepted the Bellmon Sustainability Award on behalf of Ponca City Industries at the Award Ceremonies in October, 2014 said “I had to do my homework and background checks on the lighting projects already performed to make sure they were legitimate. These are our companies and PCDA wants to make sure things are done right by them.”

Centerline is very glad to have participated in an energy savings program and especially being part of saving energy in Ponca City. Congratulations to Centerline Inc. on their new efficient lighting installation and being February’s Partner Company receiving the Bellmon Sustainability Award for Responsible Economic Growth.