

Jukebox Quilts:

Weaving Efficiency Upgrades into an 80-Year-Old Building

"A few of the windows were upgraded by the previous owner," said Jim Abbott. "But we wanted to take additional steps that would lower energy costs for our business and each of our building's residents. The tricky part was learning how to get started."

Jim AbbottJukebox Quilts

When Jim and Kelly Abbott purchased the 1930s-era Art Center building at 406 North College Avenue, the husband and wife team began searching for ways to introduce modern comforts and efficiencies to the dated structure.

Owners of Jukebox Quilts, a local source for quilting and embroidery equipment and services, the Abbotts felt an efficient building would not only help their business, it would also benefit their tenants; which include offices, artists' studios, and a gallery.

Fortunately for the Abbotts, help was not far away.





"We were told about the Efficiency Works program when we applied for our business permit," said Abbott. "It was exactly what we were looking for. Our building has over 13,000 square feet of tenant spaces, including offices and retail. Without the help of Efficiency Works, deciding where to begin may have been overwhelming."

Based on Efficiency Works recommendations and the needs of current tenants, the Abbotts began with lighting upgrades, while continuing the process with 13 new windows on the south side of the building.

Combined, the improvements are expected to yield a savings of \$31,123 per year in utility costs.

"The Efficiency Works program is a wonderful resource," said Abbott. "Our new lights and windows have already made a big difference. It's a great feeling to not only save money, but to increase our building's efficiency at the same time."

"Our assessment revealed that lighting represented almost 25 percent of our electricity use," said Abbott. "Since that was the obvious place to start, we replaced the old T12 fluorescent lamps with high efficiency T8 fixtures using low wattage lamps. Not only do the T8s reduce energy consumption, they can last 80 percent longer and produce a better quality of light."





