Florida Tile’s Lighting Retrofit Project at a glance:

- $162,500 – Stimulus funds dispersed as matching funds
- 1400 – number of old HID lights replaced with 1089 fluorescent fixtures
- 4,000,000 – Kilowatt hours reduced annually
- 6,600,000 - lbs of carbon dioxide reduced annually with reduced energy demand
- 685 – equivalent acres of trees that would have the same impact
- 1350 – number of ‘green’ manhours worked to complete project
- ~5000 – number of bulbs purchased from Sylvania’s Versailles, KY facility
- 74% - reduction in electricity consumption for lighting
- 20% - improvement in lamp life
- 1.4 – years to pay back entire cost of project based on energy savings
- 9342 vs. 3229 – actual kWh usages (before vs. after majority of work completed)

In 2010, Florida Tile and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development teamed up to retrofit the 40 year old lighting at Florida Tile’s Lawrenceburg campus. The original lighting had been installed in the 70’s and was dim and expensive. From May to November, Kentucky and Ohio based electricians installed 1089 new fluorescent fixtures. In addition to the fixtures, timers and switches were installed so the lights could be cycled on and off only when needed instead of remaining on 24/7/365.

The $162,500 invested by Florida Tile (and its parent company Panariagroup) was matched with stimulus funds administered by the state. Careful documentation of the project expenditures were turned in monthly so the state could effectively oversee where the funds were spent. The results have been nothing short of spectacular. The quality of lighting in both of Florida Tile’s industrial buildings has been significantly improved while the cost to provide that lighting has dropped by 74%. Over 4,000,000 kilowatt hours of demand were reduced from the Kentucky Utilities power grid and the project will pay for itself in less than a year and a half.

Florida Tile has worked hard to get the news of our partnership with the state out into the community. From press releases to newsletter articles to invitations to civic and business groups to come see our progress, the word has been getting around. The cooperation from the various state organizations has been top-notch and the process was smoothly administered. In all, the lighting retrofit project has been enormously positive for Florida Tile and will allow us to continue to add production and jobs at the Lawrenceburg campus. As we move forward, the lessons we have learned here will help us to save money at all of our locations.