COUNTY OF PORTAGE
WISCONSIN

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Energy Efficiency Analysis for Portage County Jail and Law Enforcement Center Project Brings Opportunity for $119,827 Incentive Award

An analysis by Focus on Energy of the Portage County Jail and Law Enforcement Center (LEC) construction project, requested by County Executive Olson, identified a series of potential heating and electric efficiency improvements for this major construction project. The work was done as part of the Energy Design Review program, open to anyone in Wisconsin planning a commercial, industrial, or public building project. Once implemented, these improvements will allow Portage County to obtain an estimated cash incentive of $119,827 from Focus on Energy.

While some of the improvements require a higher upfront cost, they would facilitate ongoing energy savings of approximately $49,118 a year. These savings, combined with the offered cash incentive, are estimated to "break even" with the initial costs after approximately 12 years. After that time, all expected savings would have a purely positive impact on county finances. In addition to monetary savings, these energy savings will result in air quality improvements and decreased contributions to climate change.

Focus on Energy is a statutorily established energy efficiency program created in 1999 by the Wisconsin Legislature. It is funded by a 1.2% surcharge on energy utility operating revenues. In 2020, Portage County received over $51,000 in similar incentives for measures implemented in the County Highway Shop renovation and expansion. All residents, businesses and local governments in Portage County are eligible for incentives and other free resources from Focus on Energy; more information is online at focusonenergy.com.

A copy of the full Energy Design Assistance document relating to the Portage County Jail project is available upon request from the County Executive's office.