

Place of Forsyth

2550 The Place Circle Cumming, GA 30040

The Place of Forsyth provides emergency assistance for basic survival needs (food, clothing, medicine, and financial) and seeks to eliminate hunger, deprivation and homelessness in Forsyth County. As part of its mission, the Place operates a thrift store in Cumming, GA. This facility consumes a great deal of energy through lighting, heating, and cooling the store and adjoining offices. In 2010, they received an assessment through Southface's GoodUse (formerly Grants to Green) program to mitigate their energy usage and increase their efficiency.

Through the assessment, the staff learned about a variety of ways they could improve their facilities' energy efficiency and reduce utility costs. In 2011, The Place received a grant from the GoodUse program for \$19,318 for updates. The Place's lighting was upgraded, as well as their freezer and cooler, and timers were installed on the hot water heater circulation pump. The Place of Forsyth significantly reduced the amount of energy it uses and demonstrates a savings of 32% energy and \$10,245 annually, up from the original \$6,300 estimate.



The Place of Forsyth is committed to sustainable practices in other ways as well. Firstly, thrift store discards have been recycled for 13 years and result in monetary benefits to the organization. Thermostats are programmed, unused electrical items unplugged, lights turned off when not used, and they now recycle cardboard, metal, and electronics. Finally, the Place's four-acre grounds are planted with drought-tolerant landscaping.

SITE DETAILS

24,000 square feet

24 foot ceilings

IMPROVEMENTS

Replacing the high bay fluorescent

Upgrading existing T12 lighting with T8 lighting

Upgrading the walk-in cooler and freezer

Replacing the HVAC systems

Sealing the garage door and roof

Installing low flow faucets and a timer on the hot water heater

IMPACT

Annual savings of **32%** and **\$10,245**