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Going Green with LED signage

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A major change in the sign industry over the past several years has been the replacement of neon with LEDs in channel letter signs. Since the beginning of the illuminated sign industry most illuminated signs have been powered by neon or florescent bulbs and ballasts. LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) adapted for use in the sign industry have become increasingly popular for many reasons. LEDs are safer, use significantly less energy, are more dependable and in most cases today do not cost any more than neon. All new signs that our company has produced over the past few years have been illuminated with LEDs instead of neon.

Many of our clients have begun to retrofit existing neon signs with new LEDs in both channel letter signs as well as box signs. The cost of a retrofit usually pays for itself within 18 months as a result of decreased energy bills and the elimination of costly service calls. In most cases, a full retrofit entitles the client to receive a 1-3 year warranty on the materials and 1-2 year warranty on service costs. The LED technology has continued to evolve in the sign industry and many new illuminated box (cabinet) signs are now being fitted with LED lighting instead of standard florescent bulbs and ballasts and many national retail chains are working to upgrade their existing box signs to LEDs as well.

In some states there are programs available through the local power companies or other organizations where end users can apply for and receive rebates sometimes up to the full cost of an LED upgrade. Check with your local power authority or your sign contractor for more information on that.

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