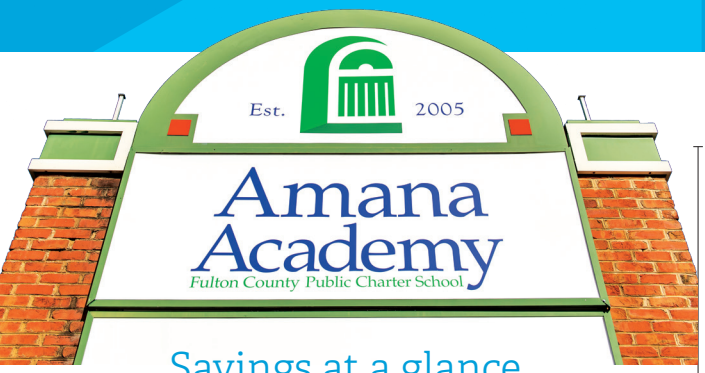
Georgia Power

Amana Academy Charter School partners with Georgia Power to upgrade facilities and save money



Savings at a glance

Annual savings: $100,000
Total project cost: $1,400,000
Incentives paid: $27,565

Amana Academy partnered with Georgia Power to upgrade the school's roof, HVAC, lighting and meter equipment with new, high-efficiency HVAC and LED lighting systems.

Facilities that do not receive electric service from Georgia Power can still partner with Georgia Power's Energy Services.

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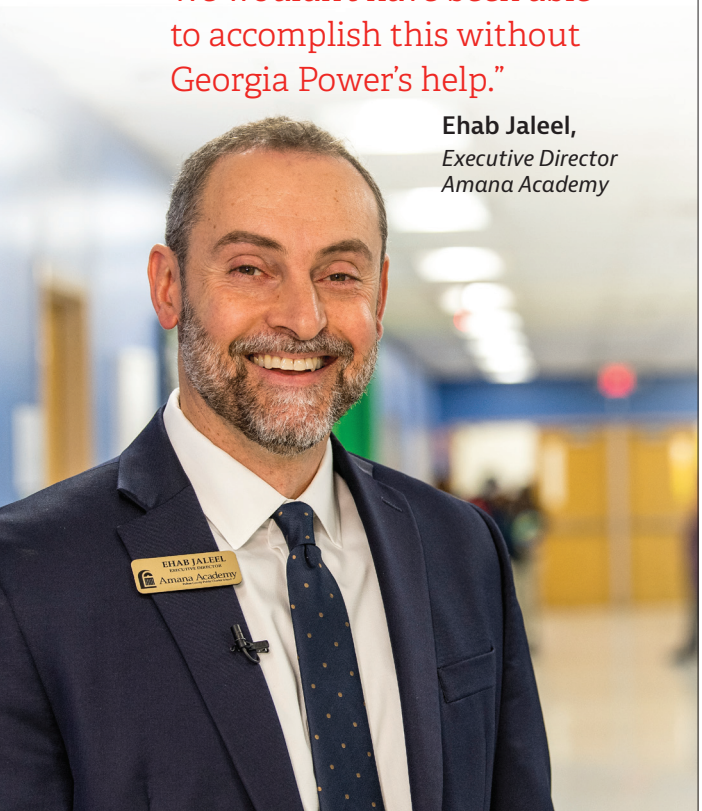
Ehab Jaleel,
Executive Director
Amana Academy



Enhancing the Educational Environment

Amana Academy was established in 2005 after a group of parents decided their children would benefit from a new way of teaching and learning. The non-profit charter school is located 30 minutes north of Atlanta in the city of Alpharetta.

Authorized by the Georgia Department of Education and the Fulton County Schools system, Amana's founding principles are based on stewardship and responsibility. The school opened with 130 students and has grown to over 700 students today.

The school's rapid growth caused it to relocate from its original facility to its current campus housed in an old supermarket building and shopping plaza.

"Being in a building that wasn't designed as a school makes it really challenging from a learning perspective," said Ehab Jaleel, executive director of Amana Academy.

According to Jaleel, Amana's commitment to sustainability was a force in its seeking out ways to improve its energy savings. Amana partnered with Georgia Power's Energy Services team to make much needed upgrades to the school's roof, HVAC systems, lighting and meter equipment. These upgrades generated both energy savings and over $27,000 in Commercial Energy Efficiency rebates, allowing Amana to pay for the upgrades in less than 10 years.

The Opportunity

The original facility, built in 1986, was renovated from a supermarket into a school in the early 2000s by another charter school. The last major renovation was in 2005.

The heating and air conditioning were legacy systems in need of immediate replacement. Classroom temperatures were uneven and caused comfort issues for students and teachers. The lighting systems were inefficient, using mostly fluorescent light bulbs.

"We considered moving into this facility, which used to be a Bruno supermarket in a retail plaza, almost like a reclamation project," said Jaleel. "We started talking with Georgia Power about how we could reduce our energy consumption, which is very much aligned with our guiding principle of Amana."

After hearing Georgia Power's energy efficiency upgrade recommendations that also included rebates, Amana Academy

continued

couldn't wait to get started. "Some of the solutions were really simple. But most importantly we were able to upgrade the new equipment and continue paying practically the same bills we were paying before we upgraded the systems."

The Georgia Power Solution

Any public, charter or private school can work with Georgia Power's Energy Services group to reduce the cost of upgrading to energy efficient technologies, resulting in lower energy use and costs. Incentives may be available for retrofit projects, replacement of aging equipment and high-efficiency equipment in new construction.

Amana Academy set its sight on upgrading its entire HVAC system including replacing a total of 26 HVAC units. According to Jaleel, the new, smaller HVAC units provide better comfort control in classrooms, cafeteria and front office area. New systems were also installed in the Administration Wing along with new spiral ductwork in the cafeteria and wi-fi thermostats throughout the school.

"Now each rooftop unit is providing the climate control for just three classrooms, and we're much better able to maintain the temperature climate inside the classrooms and provide a comfortable learning environment."

The new lighting upgrades included replacing the existing fluorescent lighting fixtures with new high-efficiency LED lights reducing the energy consumption by 40 to 70 percent. New dimming control systems were added in the classrooms and main office area.

"The lighting upgrades make the classrooms more conducive to learning, and the students have been very attentive to the change and are excited about it," said Julie Guy, lead counselor.

Roofing upgrades included upgraded materials to eliminate leaks and infiltration, new insulation and white reflective roofing for energy savings. The meter consolidation consisted of reducing the existing multiple meter setup, eliminating the monthly meter charge and lowering the kilowatt-hour cost.

The Benefits

Georgia Power was able to complete the extensive upgrades over the school's fall break without disrupting classroom teaching according to Jaleel. "It was almost like a military type operation with all the staging. When we came back from the break, you couldn't tell that any construction had taken place."

Amana Academy will continue to upgrade the building's infrastructure with Georgia Power's help. "We were able to upgrade a majority of the building, but there are still other systems that need to be improved. We wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without Georgia Power's help, and we look forward to finding more sustainable solutions in the future," says Jaleel. "There's a general feeling from our parents and our students that we're investing in them, investing in their education and investing in the future."

Georgia Power's Energy Services team can partner with you to provide turnkey, energy-saving projects at your facilities and save you energy and money on lighting, heating and cooling, food service, water heating, reflective roofing and custom projects.

For more information, visit **georgiapower.com/utilityservices** or call Greg Sparks at **770-216-1345.**

Brighter, more consistent lighting in the hallways and classrooms make for a better learning environment.

Updated lighting fixtures and architectural improvements add to the appearance of the building.

New HVAC units provide better control and comfort in classrooms, cafeteria and front office area.