

# **Small Business Success**

## Conduit to Green Building

#### Background:

Affordable Electric, a minority-owned small business, owned and operated by Jean Malary is a local electrical contractor based out of Clackamas, Oregon. Affordable Electric began working in the residential sector performing tenant improvement work as well as new construction and performed electrical work on the downtown light rail in downtown Portland. Affordable Electric has now broadened their scope capabilities by performing high rise commercial electrical work at the EGWW building consisting of the most modern lighting controls and systems.

Affordable Electrics' initial contract was for all the electrical work in various rooms at the basement level, as well as the upper and lower parking garages. During construction Affordable Electric was awarded tenant work on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor for the U.S. Forest Service. This scope of work included wiring, tele-data cabling, lighting controls/devices, and fixture installation. Affordable Electric did a fantastic job coordinating with other trades as well as maintaining flexibility during the two stage schedule level 14 required.

#### How the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project Helped:

Using the EGWW project as a major stepping stone into green building, Affordable Electric has worked above and beyond expectations. They now have the knowledge and ability to install the most modern lighting control systems around. Using this skill Affordable Electric can attack all kinds of projects seeking LEED certification while offering advice and experience with advanced lighting control systems.

As work progressed on the EGWW building Affordable Electric purchased and brought new tools to the jobsite. New tools such as roto-hammers, band saws, impact drivers, portable print tables, and pipe racks; all of which can be used on future jobs giving them a competitive advantage. Along with new tools, Affordable Electric employees were brought to the EGWW project where they performed work until their assigned jobs started up. This gave crucial work to those waiting in between jobs.



**The Results:** Affordable Electric proved to be a dependable contractor that asked all the right questions while working on the EGWW project. There is no doubt that this project has instilled greater knowledge into Affordables' crew which will be used for future work.

### **FAST FACTS**

**Project**: Renovate GSA's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt federal building creating a high performance green building consistent with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) intention.

Location: Portland, Oregon

**Impacts:** Opportunity for local small businesses, workers, families, commuters, and students.

#### Contract Value: \$618,627

**Company**: Affordable Electric Interior/Exterior electrical contractors Jean Malary 503-305-6979

Partners: Howard S. Wright, SERA Architects