



CASE STUDY | WEST HARTFORD HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER & AVON HEALTH CENTER

Energy Conscious Blueprint

The Energy Efficiency Fund helped West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation Center & Avon Health Center:

- Save approximately \$10,700 in natural gas costs annually.
- Defray its investment with a \$49,000 incentive.
- Achieve a lifetime savings of approximately 128,600 hundred cubic feet (ccf).

The gas saved over this project's lifetime is equivalent to:

- 724,685 pounds of coal not burned, or
- 59,572 gallons of oil not burned, or
- 775 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions avoided.

This program is for business customers planning new construction, major renovations, new production or process equipment, or replacement of existing equipment near the end of its useful life. Benefits include financial incentives to offset the premium costs associated with energy-efficient technology. This program is one of several innovative solutions offered by the Energy Efficiency Fund and administered by Connecticut's utility companies. For a complete listing of energy efficiency programs and services for electric and natural gas customers, visit www.CTEnergyInfo.com or call 1-877-WISE-USE.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CASE STUDY: WEST HARTFORD HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER & AVON HEALTH CENTER

BACKGROUND

The West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation Center is a 160-bed skilled nursing facility that provides specialized Alzheimer's/Dementia care, physical, occupational and speech therapy, IV therapy and advanced wound care. The Avon Health Center is a 120-bed nursing home that has been providing Farmington Valley families with quality health care services for more than 65 years. Its staff provides short-term rehabilitation, skilled long-term care, IV therapy, wound care, hospice care, and other traditional medical and nursing services. Both facilities are owned and operated by the family of Russell Schwartz, director of operations.

THE CHALLENGE

As part of a major renovation and building improvements project for both facilities, Russell looked into ways to operate cleaner, more sustainable and less expensive businesses. Several old, highly inefficient boilers ran around the clock, using excessive amounts of energy in both buildings. Russell hoped to reduce the facilities' carbon footprint by upgrading the boilers and thus, lowering operational costs. However, the cost of replacing outdated equipment would be significant. A difficult economic environment made the project an even greater challenge to accomplish.

“Financial incentives provided by the Energy Efficiency Fund made our project affordable, even in a down economy.”

– Russell Schwartz

THE SOLUTION

Energy-efficiency measures are most effective when factored into the earliest phase of development. When Russell learned about the Energy Efficiency Fund's Energy Conscious Blueprint program, he signed up immediately. Program administrators assisted Russell with reviewing contractor proposals for standard versus high-efficiency boilers. They also helped him evaluate the savings estimate based on energy usage for these types of facilities.

For the West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation Center, eight inefficient boilers were replaced with four high-efficiency, natural gas ones. They are expected to save the facility an estimated \$4,600 annually. Also, the Avon Health Center replaced its various boilers with four high-efficiency gas boilers for an annual savings of \$6,100. Reducing the number of boilers at each location decreased the amount of physical space they required as well.

BENEFITS

- The Energy Conscious Blueprint program offers a variety of incentive structures to offset the cost of energy-efficient equipment that can reduce capital and operating costs.
- Energy upgrades translate into customer savings on monthly electric bills for the life of the equipment.
- CL&P provides oversight and inspection.

(All commercial and industrial customers are eligible. Call to discuss potential financing options.)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Incremental cost for energy-efficient boilers compared to standard efficiency models: \$64,425

Energy Efficiency Fund incentive paid: \$49,000

Annual estimated natural gas savings based on rate at time of project: \$10,700

Estimated payback time for West Hartford Health & Rehabilitation Center & Avon Health Center's additional investment in their energy-efficient boilers: 1.44 years

Program measures subject to change without notice