

The Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Natural Gas Savings Programs Commercial and Industrial Rebates

CASE STUDY

CUSTOMER

The Art Institute of Chicago

PROJECTS

- Boiler efficiency improvements
- Gas optimization study

REBATE AMOUNT

\$161,500

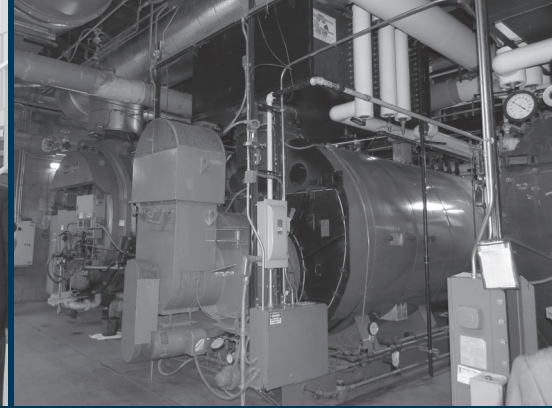
ENERGY SAVINGS

94,500 therms



“Working with the Peoples Gas team, we were able to develop a plan to maximize savings opportunities while targeting the quickest payback opportunities.”

– Patrick Jones, The Art Institute of Chicago



Customer Background

Founded in 1866, the Art Institute of Chicago is over 1 million square feet of tightly controlled museum space in downtown Chicago. In order to preserve their diverse collections, the Art Institute’s staff regulates exact temperatures, humidity levels and ventilation specifications far above a typical facility.

Project Description

After previously working with the Art Institute of Chicago staff on efficient commercial kitchen equipment and steam trap projects, the Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program team began exploring additional opportunities for customized energy efficiency solutions throughout the facility. An in-depth system study was recommended after a tour of the boiler house revealed an opportunity to utilize waste heat to preheat makeup water.

Patrick Jones, manager of facilities and energy for the Art Institute, was excited about the opportunity and eager to complete the study. Working with McGuire Engineering, the program-funded study confirmed that the installation of economizers on the boiler stacks would save energy and reduce waste.

“The study revealed great energy-saving opportunities for our facility,” Jones said. “It was a blueprint to a more comprehensive savings strategy for our team. Working with Peoples Gas, we were able to develop a plan to maximize savings while targeting the quickest payback opportunities.”

Due to strict payback parameters and limited capital budgets, the recommended project was initially too large for the property to undertake. However, the staff found a way to move forward.

Project Team

- Patrick Jones, Manager of Facilities and Energy, The Art Institute of Chicago
- Mike Murphy, Project Manager, McGuire Engineers
- Tony Ranallo, President, Meilner Mechanical
- Russ Nelson, Senior Project Engineer, Hill Mechanical
- Leon Dorsey, Account Executive, Peoples Gas
- Adam Roche, Energy Engineer, Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program
- Rick Pettibone, Energy Advisor, Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program

Impact

The Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program staff identified a way for the Art Institute team to reconfigure their boiler operation from an equally-distributed, year-round three boiler rotation to a two boiler rotation with the third reserved as backup. This helped to greatly reduce the project cost, and allow the Art Institute to meet its payback parameters, by reducing the number of economizers installed from three to two.

“The Peoples Gas team was a great partner in helping us successfully and cost effectively achieve our energy savings goals,” Jones said. “Without the program’s guidance and support, the road to project completion would have been much more challenging.”

The Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Natural Gas Savings Programs team is available to help you capture similar savings at your business. Call 855-849-8928 today to schedule a facility assessment with one of our energy experts.

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