



Energy Efficiency Success Story

The Humbolt Building, Chicago, IL

Savings

- **30%** projected annual energy savings

Building Overview

- Building owner: Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation
- Building type: 1920s brick courtyard building with 29 units

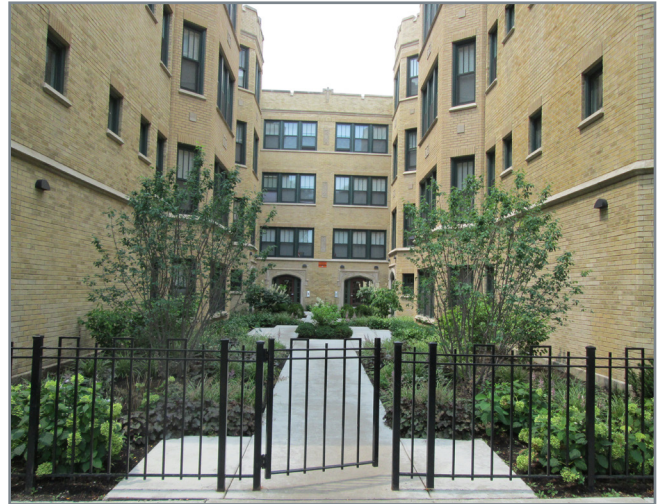
Upgrades Completed

- Air sealing and insulation completed
- Historic high efficiency windows (low E) installed
- Replaced aging steam boiler with high efficiency individual furnaces
- Installed high efficiency central air conditioning units
- Upgraded to high efficiency central domestic hot water heaters
- Installed high-efficiency faucets and showerheads
- Efficient exhaust fans installed in bathrooms and kitchens
- ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances and ceiling fans installed

Project Summary

This 1920s courtyard building was purchased by Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation in 1988 as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) disposition property in danger of being demolished. Bickerdike converted 54 studios into 29 units of family affordable housing. The project is located in Chicago's Historic Boulevard District and maintains a HUD Section 8 Contract for all 29 units.

In March of 2014, Bickerdike completed a substantial rehabilitation of the Humboldt Building to preserve it as quality affordable housing. Bickerdike worked with Elevate Energy to incorporate energy efficiency upgrades including air sealing and roof cavity insulation, window replacement, and installation of high efficiency heating and cooling systems, and other energy-saving measures.



The project is a model for incorporating energy efficiency upgrades in historic preservation. It also demonstrates how energy efficiency can help to preserve affordable housing. Roughly 70 percent of households living in the building have extremely low incomes (below 30% of the area median income). More than 60 percent of the households have lived in the building for more than five years. The lower energy costs in the building help Bickerdike keep rents affordable, while providing residents with comfortable homes.

Apply Today

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Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation is a member based, nonprofit community development corporation working for the development of communities on the northwest side of Chicago.