



# Energy Efficiency Success Story

First United Methodist Church of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL

## Savings

- **18%** annual energy savings
- **\$7,286** annual cost savings
- **2-year** payback period after grants and incentives

## Building Overview

- Building type: religious institution and educational facility
- Year built: 1923 – 1925
- Building function: house of worship and Montessori school

## Upgrades Completed

- Lighting retrofit
- Steam trap replacement
- Pipe insulation

## Costs and Resources Leveraged

- ComEd Smart Ideas rebate: \$6,600
- ComEd small business rebate: \$25,000
- Nicor rebates: \$18,630
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant: \$24,502
- Total project cost: \$89,223
- Total out-of-pocket cost: \$14,419

## Project Summary

First United Methodist Church of Oak Park was experiencing temperature control issues in the classrooms and offices of their building. The classrooms were so hot at times that they were forced to open windows to allow cool air in, while wasting money on heat. An energy assessment from Elevate Energy uncovered that the temperatures throughout the classrooms and hallways were severely unbalanced due to failed stream traps and valves located on multiple radiators. The Elevate Energy team provided an energy report for the building that identified a solution to the temperature problem, as well as additional ways to save on energy use, including pipe insulation and lighting upgrades.

An Oak Park landmark, First United Methodist is committed to Christian worship and ministry, education, community service, and environmental stewardship, while maintaining the building's historic integrity.



## From the Congregation

“With the monies saved through energy rebates, grants, and incentives, our church was able to complete major updates that will provide substantial future energy costs savings, while staying on budget. I would strongly recommend and urge the use of energy assistance programs by the managers of other churches and public buildings.”

— Joe R. Milburn, Chairman, Finance Committee, First United Methodist Church of Oak Park

Elevate Energy's approach proved to be compatible with the historic preservation considerations, and the team supported First United Methodist through every step of the process of making the improvements.

“They were especially patient and helpful. I even have the analyst's number in my cell phone,” says Karen Doty, Church Trustee. The Elevate Energy team helped with everything from applying for incentives and employing contractors to oversight of the work. The resulting energy savings will free up resources that the church can now put toward its mission serving the community.

## Apply Today

(855) 372-8377

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