



ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIVES HOSPITAL SHOT IN THE ARM

The people of Pekin, Illinois, know they can count on Pekin Hospital when they need some extra care. And Pekin Hospital knows it can count on Ameren Illinois to improve its energy efficiency — and the health of its bottom line.

With cash incentives from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, in 2012 Pekin Hospital completed a series of projects that quickly began cranking out some serious energy savings.

“One of my goals is to reduce the hospital’s utility costs, and Ameren Illinois has been a great resource to me,” says John Priester, Director of Facilities Management at the 125-bed medical center. “Every dollar saved is a dollar earned. If I can get an incentive from Ameren Illinois and save on energy costs, it’s a win-win.”

In early 2012, Priester led the charge to complete a trio of tactics that would give the hospital — and the environment — a shot in the arm. Together, those tactics are saving the facility more than \$84,000 a year in energy costs.

Shedding Light on Savings

With more than \$13,000 in cash incentives, the hospital was able to complete a mix of five lighting projects. High-efficiency T8 lamps and electronic ballasts replaced outdated T12 lighting and magnetic ballasts; light occupancy sensors were added to ensure that rooms are illuminated only when they’re being used; and new LED exit lights use far less energy and last years longer than previous models. With these improvements, the hospital gained a better quality of light and cut energy costs by \$14,000 a year.

Full Steam Ahead

Steam plays a particularly critical role at Pekin Hospital, where it is used to sterilize medical equipment, as well as in the laundry and kitchen.

“It’s important that steam be a certain quality — if it’s too moist, it can ruin equipment. Steam traps help us maintain the quality we need,” says Priester.

Steam traps are automatic valves that release condensed steam and prevent the loss of live steam, so steam heating systems can work efficiently. Even one leaky steam trap can cost a business thousands of dollars a year in lost energy.

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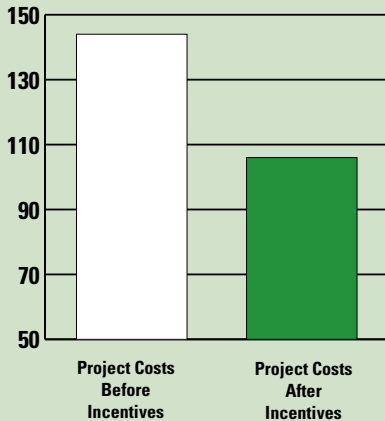
Benefits to Pekin Hospital:

- \$84,500 in annual savings
- More than \$38,000 in incentives from Ameren Illinois’ energy efficiency programs
- More than 181,000 kWh saved every year
- More than 24,000 therms saved every year
- Reduced project payback periods
- Lower maintenance costs
- Less environmental impact
- Every dollar saved frees up funds for patient care



Improve the Health of Your Bottom Line with Ameren Illinois

Incentives Have Impact



Sick of Energy Waste? Call Ameren Illinois.

The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program is the remedy for businesses plagued by energy waste. From start to finish, our energy experts can help with the application process, savings estimates, questions on equipment eligibility or incentives, and much more. Contact us today to learn more.

“We didn’t just arbitrarily decide to do this,” says Priester, who responded to an offer from Grainger, a Program Ally, for a steam trap survey that proved to be eye-opening. “We saw the potential for savings and decided we would take a chance on this.”

It’s a chance that paid off. In less than six weeks, Pekin Hospital had replaced 24 faulty steam traps (of 138 total), sealing in savings of \$62,000 in natural gas costs every year.

Better still, an \$8,500 incentive covered more than 80% of project costs.

“Our incentives make many projects a slam dunk,” says John Beintema, Market Segment Coordinator for Ameren Illinois. “When you’re replacing old, inefficient equipment, an incentive can offset a sizeable portion of your project costs and reduce your payback period to just a few years.”

New Boiler Heats Up Savings

In his mission to cut energy costs, Priester also targeted one of two boilers that produce the hospital’s hot water and steam. Through the Custom Program, a smaller, more efficient boiler burner was installed, as well as a new motor equipped with a variable frequency drive. A VFD allows the boiler to run only when it’s needed, rather than operating at 100% all of the time.

“The old motor would not allow us to dial down during non-peak periods,” says Priester. “The new equipment will make automatic adjustments depending on how much you want to burn at different times.”

The new boiler equipment will save the hospital roughly \$8,500 in annual electricity and natural gas costs. Plus, incentives covered nearly 30% of project costs, reducing the project payback period by nearly two full years.

With a long tradition of providing personal care to its patients, Pekin Hospital has proven that patience and care go a long way in energy efficiency, too.

“Energy efficiency has to start somewhere, and we want to be a leader in our community,” says Priester, who is already planning additional projects. “We are making choices that are friendlier to the environment, and we want others to see that this can work for them, too.”

Hospitals: Feel Better About Your Energy Use!

Ameren Illinois provides a variety of cash incentives for healthcare facilities, including:

- No-cost/low-cost energy efficiency improvements
- Lighting upgrades
- HVAC and water heater replacements
- Variable frequency drive (VFD) installations
- Commercial kitchen equipment upgrades
- Custom projects
- Retro commissioning projects

READY TO BEGIN?

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