



SCHOOL'S NEW KITCHEN COOKS UP ENERGY SAVINGS

Administrators at St. John's Lutheran School in Mattoon, Illinois, put energy efficiency to the test when they transformed a former newspaper building into an energy-smart school. More than 160 students — ranging from first to eighth grade — now learn in a comfortable environment that costs far less to operate.

With lessons learned from the previous school — a much older building with insulation issues — administrators were committed to making the new school energy efficient.

"Energy efficiency was a priority — we had many discussions about it. We had seen the utility bills from our previous school building, and we were certain we could improve dramatically on that," says Principal Mark Ewald. "We had to be sure we could afford the operating costs of the new building."

Far more than a face lift, the revamped building features insulation improvements, an energy-efficient gas water heater, high-efficiency lighting and occupancy sensors, and cutting-edge kitchen equipment.

The school's new kitchen, which is shared by the nearby St. John's Lutheran Church, is filled with ENERGY STAR®-qualified equipment — including a steamer, hot holding cabinet, dishwasher, and hot water heater. A solid door freezer equipped with high-efficiency motors and automatic door closers will also put the freeze on energy waste.

Through the specialty equipment program, Ameren Illinois provided the school with a key ingredient: \$2,365 in incentives to offset the costs of the new kitchen equipment. In addition to commercial kitchens, the program also offers specialty equipment incentives for hospitality, healthcare, and other industries.

"Our specialty equipment application is mostly used in the restaurant industry — but it works great in a lunchroom cafeteria or anywhere people are cooking or preparing food," says Rod Rhoads, Energy Advisor for Ameren Illinois. "It combines a lot of things you would use in the food service industry and streamlines the paperwork for the customer."

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Benefits to St. John's School:

- \$2,365 in incentives
- 37,000 kilowatts saved annually
- 570 therms saved annually
- \$3,150 in annual energy cost savings
- New equipment means lower maintenance costs
- Less impact on the environment

Learn Ways to Save at *AmerenIllinoisSavings.com*



Ameren Illinois Serves Up Cash for Kitchens

From freezers and coolers to appliances and fixtures, your cafeteria or food service business demands equipment that performs. Ameren Illinois can be a key ingredient in your recipe for energy savings with cash incentives for a variety of commercial kitchen projects:

- ENERGY STAR®-qualified kitchen equipment upgrades
- High-efficiency water heaters
- Lighting upgrades
- LED case lighting
- Solid or glass door freezers
- Strip curtains on walk-in coolers or freezers
- Automatic door closers for walk-in freezers
- EC (electronically commutated) motors and anti-sweat heater controls
- High-efficiency exhaust and circulation fans

That state-of-the-art kitchen will serve up some serious savings. In fact, the school will save more than 37,000 kWh and 570 therms every year in the kitchen alone. These energy savings equate to \$3,150 in energy cost savings every year.

The kitchen is organized in a way that saves human energy, too. As the school's appreciative cook — who worked in the previous school's 1950s-era kitchen — reported to Principal Mark Ewald: "It's like dying and going to heaven."

While energy-efficient equipment may cost more up front, the incentive gave the school one more reason to choose energy-smart equipment that will eventually pay for itself.

"The incentive helped bring our project costs down, and the lower we could get the cost, the more comfortable the congregation could be with it," says Ewald. "Those incentive dollars made it possible to pursue projects that will keep operating costs lower — and that's critical to whether we're successful or not."

Ewald recommends the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program as a way for other schools and businesses to cut project costs and gain long-term savings.

"Ameren Illinois' program has been very beneficial to us," he says. "If you can lower the cost of a project, it only makes sense to do so."

As St. John's School learned first hand — new construction or remodeling projects are the perfect opportunity to make meaningful improvements in energy performance.

"I don't think there's any excuse not to incorporate energy efficiency into a new or remodeled building," says Ewald. "It makes sense to spend a few more dollars upfront for greater efficiency than spend more to do it a few years down the road."

And the road to energy efficiency need never be traveled alone. Energy advisors like Rod Rhoads can provide guidance, answers, and encouragement for businesses and non-profits alike.

"There are a lot of things we can do to help private schools and churches," says Rhoads, who points out that energy efficiency need not be tackled all at once. "It's easy to do projects as you can afford them and you don't have to do it alone — let us help!"

The energy experts at Ameren Illinois can help you uncover energy-saving opportunities around every corner of your facility. And particularly for non-profit groups, every dollar counts — just ask the principal at St. John's Lutheran School.

"The tuition we charge covers approximately 60% of the costs of educating a student — the rest comes from mission dollars from the congregation," says Ewald. "Every dollar we save helps us afford the school, as well as other missions we want to do."

When your organization makes energy efficiency its mission, you can count on the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program to put you at the head of the class.

Give Me Some Green!

All Ameren Illinois natural gas customers with a commercial kitchen and gas-powered hot water heater are eligible for a FREE green pre-rinse nozzle — or more than one, if needed. The energy-efficient green pre-rinse nozzle uses about 75% less water and can save you as much as \$800 a year in water and natural gas costs.

To receive your free green pre-rinse nozzle, simply contact us at **1.866.800.0747** or e-mail us at **IllinoisBusinessEE@Ameren.com**.

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