



CARLE HOSPITAL EXAMINES ENERGY COSTS

Nationally recognized for patient care, Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois, knows a thing or two about fixing what ails you. And these days, the non-profit is applying the same level of care to energy conservation.

The journey to new levels of energy efficiency began at the 2017 Ameren Illinois Business Symposium. It was there that Tom Johnson, Executive Director - Facility Services, learned about cash incentives for energy-efficient upgrades — and found an ally to implement them in Sitton Energy Solutions.

“As an Ameren Illinois customer, we were paying for the energy efficiency programs anyway, so we might as well be using them,” says Johnson, who discovered that Ameren Illinois Retro Commissioning Program is a great place to start increasing energy costs.

“Retro commissioning is the best first step a large facility can take,” says Jason Combs of Sitton Energy Solutions. “Through the retro commissioning process, other projects are identified which helps lay out a long-term road map toward energy efficiency — without sacrificing comfort, occupancy or productivity.”

Ameren Illinois makes it easy and affordable to do just that. The utility’s Large Facilities Retro Commissioning offering helps industrial, healthcare and commercial buildings make the most of existing lighting, HVAC and energy management systems.

“It’s important for large facilities to take a fresh, holistic, data-driven look at energy use,” says Keith Martin, Director – Energy Efficiency at Ameren Illinois. “We were pleased to offer incentives that covered 80 percent of the hospital’s costs to complete a retro commissioning study and implement no-cost and low-cost efficiency measures.”

This study helps reset existing systems to perform at optimal efficiency levels and identify new projects that upgrade existing equipment. These incentives helped to offset project costs and make the return on investment very attractive to hospital administrators.

“With the Ameren Illinois rebate, the project became almost budget neutral — and the savings go on and on,” says Johnson.

Hospitals: Feel Better About Your Energy Use!

The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program is the remedy for organizations plagued by energy waste. Ameren Illinois offers cash incentives for a variety of healthcare projects, including:

- » No-cost/low-cost energy efficiency improvements
- » Lighting upgrades
- » HVAC and water heater replacements
- » Variable frequency drive (VFD) installs
- » Commercial kitchen equipment upgrades
- » LEDs, LED exit signs, and vending controls
- » Custom projects

From start to finish, our energy experts can help with the application process, savings estimates, questions on equipment eligibility or incentives, and much more.



AmerenIllinoisSavings.com: Your Rx for Efficiency

Large Facilities Retro Commissioning

Large Facilities Retro Commissioning is available to Ameren Illinois customers with facilities of at least 100,000 square feet with an energy management system in place. This offering can defray a large percentage of the up-front cost of the survey and initial improvements. The Retro Commissioning Survey may also identify capital improvement projects (1-10 year payback) that might qualify for additional incentives through the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.

Healing the Planet

Carle Hospital's energy-savings efforts allow the hospital to deliver excellent patient care while caring for the environment. Through retro commissioning and related projects — and energy-efficient new construction — Carle Hospital will reduce its annual energy use by more than 3.1 million kilowatt-hours and 234,000 therms (and counting). In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, those energy savings are equivalent to taking nearly 750 cars off the road for an entire year!

"It's part of our mission to be good stewards of resources," says Tom Johnson, Executive Director – Facility Services. "Our Ameren Illinois projects line up beautifully with that mission, as well as grassroots efforts by hospital employees."

Ameren Illinois also provided a Staffing Grant to help pay Sitton Energy Solutions to complete the survey and other projects.

"We spent quite a bit of time walking through the facility, getting a feel for how the HVAC equipment operates, monitoring controls using analytics, and diving deep into the data," says Combs.

The survey identified rooms that must be ready for use 24/7, like heart catheterization labs. It also shined a light on rooms ripe for energy reductions.

"We discovered that our HVAC system was running full out in some rooms and buildings that were unoccupied on nights and weekends," says Johnson.

Armed with in-depth data, the team was able to more precisely schedule the building automation system and set points, while maintaining comfort levels.

"Patient care is the only reason we're here. We will never sacrifice quality or comfort for dollars," says Johnson. To the contrary, "the savings we achieved will allow us to invest even more in patient care and community and financial assistance programs."

Along with thousands of dollars in direct energy savings, the maintenance budget will get a boost.

"The hospital conserves energy by slowing equipment down or turning it off, so it has less wear and tear — and that makes equipment last longer," explains Combs.

As designed, the retro commissioning survey spurred an ongoing series of energy efficiency projects, including: annual steam trap surveys and repairs, energy-efficient new construction, and lighting upgrades.

"By spawning other energy-saving upgrades, retro commissioning worked the way it is supposed to work," says Martin. "Carle Hospital's journey to efficiency is a success story that continues to be written."

As Johnson says: "We will keep looking for opportunities. There are riches in the niches."



Energy Efficiency. It's Good Business.

Since 2008, the award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has provided millions in incentives to help business, nonprofit and public organizations reduce their annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air.

READY TO BEGIN?

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