



Dominican University

Natural Resource Savings through DRF's Resource Conservation Solutions Program

Location: River Forest, IL
Facility Size: 30 acres



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Replaced 567 steam traps to improve efficiency of space heating system.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Nicor Gas Rebate Amount: \$56,700

Payback Period: Instant ROI

Projected Annual Savings: 15% of space heating costs

The Nicor Gas Business Energy Efficiency Rebates program provided bonus rebates that covered more than 90% of the project cost for Dominican University (DU). This commercial steam trap bonus rebate has been extended through May 31, 2014.

THE NEED

DU had not completed space heating steam system maintenance or steam trap replacement for many years. Some of the steam traps were original to the 1920 building. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if your steam system has not been maintained in three to five years, 15-30% of steam traps have likely failed. Steam traps can fail in an open or closed position causing excess steam to escape or system performance issues, both resulting in wasted resources and money.

THE SOLUTION

Through a long standing partnership and history with DU, DRF identified the need for steam trap replacement. The original proposal and standard rebate capture provided a valuable energy and financial savings for DU. Taking advantage of the limited time double rebate opportunity created an instant ROI.

THE RESULT

Annual space heating cost savings for steam trap replacement averages 15%. The Nicor Gas rebates will allow DU to instantly see budget improvements from gas savings. "This was my first full year at Dominican University," explained Chief Engineer John Ward. "I know we had several failed steam traps because of the amount of steam we were getting back to our condensate tanks." "With replacement of the steam traps, our boilers will run more efficiently," he said. "I am excited to see what our gas savings will be this coming winter."

Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas all have steam trap survey and replacement rebates available. With rate hikes taking effect in July 2013 for Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas customers, natural gas efficiency will be even more valuable.



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