Case Study
North Kansas City School District

Evergy incentives made it possible for the school district to cut energy costs and improve their learning environment.

Overview

North Kansas City School District was looking to address maintenance issues and save energy in its aging facilities. The district maintains over 2.8 million square feet in 21 elementary schools, eight special education and activity facilities, five middle schools, four high schools, and three administrative and maintenance facilities. Energy costs exceeded $4 million per year. In other words, the school district used a lot of energy and had a lot of opportunities to save.

> "Our school district was able to implement an energy conservation program that will save over $30 million. We're using these savings to fund our energy management program, facility renovations and other district needs. This has made a huge impact on our energy conservation and facility comfort."
>
> **Dr. Daniel Clemens**
> *Superintendent*

Challenge

Like many school districts, North Kansas City School District faced issues with aging facilities, rising utility costs and cuts to school funding. To reduce energy use and fund much needed improvements, the school district worked with Evergy to create a three-phase project. The available incentives and the promise of ongoing energy savings meant the school district could justify the initial project cost.

Results

North Kansas City School District implemented energy-saving measures across all of its facilities, including:

- High-efficiency interior and exterior lighting (low-wattage T8s and LEDs)
- Heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment replacement with high efficiency rooftop units, air handling units, chillers and boilers
- Installation of an energy management system to schedule equipment operation and control space temperature set points

By the Numbers

Facility type:
School

Facility size (multiple):
2.8 million sq. ft.

Measures:
Lighting, HVAC, weatherization and more

Estimated annual electric savings:
$990,000

Estimated annual energy savings:
5.1 million kWh

Total project cost:
4.3 million

Evergy incentives paid:
$850,000 (with $135,000 planned)

Project payback:
4.5 years

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Results (continued)

- Building weatherization, including sealing gaps
- Roof, window and water fixture replacement
- Bus engine block heater controls that schedule the block heater to run only as needed
- Installation of a monitoring system that continuously evaluates the operation of the facilities and equipment, and monitors energy use in real time

The project cost was reduced significantly by Evergy incentives of $850,000, with an additional $135,000 in incentives planned for further work. Factoring in incentives and energy cost savings, the school district should be able pay the projects off in less than 5 years.

And it wasn't just financial savings that North Kansas City School District has enjoyed. The district also saved 5.1 million kWh, which is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from 8.5 million miles driven by an average passenger vehicle and the CO_2 emissions from the annual energy use of 378 homes, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculations.

Thanks to this project, North Kansas City School District is expected to receive ENERGY STAR® certification for all of its educational facilities, putting them in the top 25th percentile of schools nationwide. The school district is currently applying for this certification and planning to complete additional energy-saving projects with Evergy.

$990,000
estimated annual savings

LED technology

HVAC

Weatherization

GET STARTED SAVING

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