



Energy
Efficiency
Program

Homestead Hotel saves energy with steam traps



Hotel welcomes no cost energy upgrades



Project description:
200 steam trap
replacements



**Estimated true
project cost:**
\$7,793



**Nicor Gas
incentives:**
\$7,793

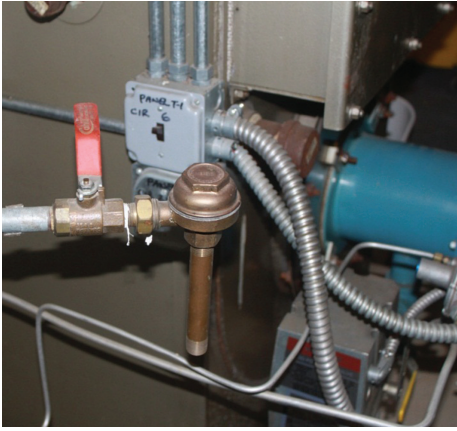


Energy savings:
40,600 therms saved
per year

The Homestead Hotel in Evanston was built in 1927 and has been under family management for more than 75 years. Since 1983, the current owners have been welcoming guests from across the globe to their 90-room inn and residence. The Homestead seeks to set itself apart from larger, commercial hotels by offering guests a “home away from home” experience.

Project team

- David Reynolds, Partner, Homestead Hotel
- Renford Coombs, Maintenance employee, Homestead Hotel
- Courtney Anderson, Maintenance employee, Homestead Hotel



The project

David Reynolds, one of Homestead's partners, first replaced the caps on the hotel's steam traps when he purchased the property in 1983. At that time the building was 56 years old and the hotel's traps had never been replaced. Now the building is 84 years old and, in two rounds in the last year, Reynolds was able to replace 200 traps in the building with the help of the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program.



How the Homestead Hotel made it happen

Reynolds became aware of the importance of replacing steam traps when he worked with Enco Partners, a local energy solutions company that specializes in steam trap solutions. Reynolds said, "The hotel industry is very competitive and energy costs are very high. Keeping our energy costs low through efficiency allows us to compete." The Homestead will save approximately \$17,860 in natural gas costs annually as a result of this energy efficiency upgrade. Going forward, Reynolds plans to use a thermal imager to test the Homestead's steam traps each winter. Consistently testing his traps will insure that he always has a fully functional steam system and he will be able to utilize Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program rebates to offset the cost of replacements.

"The financial assistance I received from Nicor Gas allowed me to go through with this project that I knew needed to be done."

— David Reynolds,
Homestead Hotel

The experience

Reynolds believes that his experience with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program was all positive, noting, "The financial assistance I received from Nicor Gas allowed me to go through with this project that I knew needed to be done." He was able to replace nearly all of his steam traps and received \$7,793 in rebates—all at a very low cost to his hotel. "I never had any problems with the applications and received my rebates promptly," Reynolds said.

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