



Energy  
Efficiency  
Program

## Dominican University receives \$300K for energy-saving projects

Photo credit: DominicanUniversity / flickr

## Nicor Gas identifies opportunities for innovative energy savings



**Total projects:**  
Four custom projects



**Nicor Gas  
incentives:**  
\$324,267

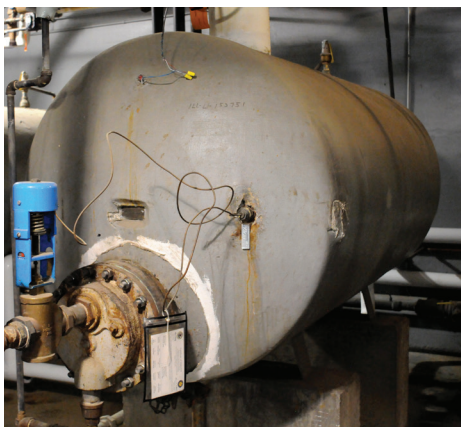


**Energy savings:**  
225,772 therms saved  
per year

Dominican University, located in River Forest, Illinois, is one of the Midwest's top ranking universities. It was founded in 1901 and offers both undergraduate and graduate programs. Dedicated to education, Dominican has also proved its dedication to improve comfort, increase efficiency and reduce energy costs throughout the campus by collaborating with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program.

### Project team

- Dan Bulow, Director Buildings and Grounds
- Dominican University Buildings and Grounds
- DRF Trusted Property Solutions



## The project

In 2010, Dominican worked with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program to identify energy-saving opportunities and available rebates. Dominican partnered with DRF Trusted Property Solutions, a dedicated trade ally, to develop an innovative custom-designed boiler system that eliminated the need for a boiler during the summer and resulted in significant natural gas savings.

Since 2010, Dominican has continued to team with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program and DRF Trusted Property Solutions to identify energy-saving opportunities. In 2013, Dominican completed two burner replacement projects that yielded a total savings of over \$190,488 through incentives and an annual energy savings of 87,168 therms.

Today, these partners continue working together to customize energy-saving opportunities specific to Dominican's financial and facility needs. Two projects are currently in progress, including pipe insulation and boiler improvements.



## How Dominican University made it happen

Dominican began working on the boiler retrofit project in 2010 when they discovered that the university was operating a massive, energy-intensive boiler throughout summer to supply hot water and air conditioning to only a small number of buildings. This energy waste was a significant cost to Dominican. DRF Trusted Property Solutions connected Dominican with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program and together tailored a boiler retrofit project to fit the facility's needs. With the customized project and Nicor Gas' incentives, the project was completed easily and Dominican's operating costs are now substantially reduced. With the support of ongoing communication, on-site energy assessments and innovative strategies, the team continues to identify viable projects for Dominican that are affordable and significantly reduce energy use throughout the campus.

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## The experience

The projects Dominican completed resulted in significant natural gas savings. Dominican has reinvested the saved dollars in enhanced education opportunities, low tuition costs and a productive campus environment. To put the savings in perspective, the financial incentives received through Nicor Gas could be used to purchase more than 1,600 computer monitors for the university. Through incentives, the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program has also helped Dominican to continue their path towards sustainability by reinvesting a portion of the university's utility bill savings into future energy efficiency improvements.

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