

Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority

Rochester, NY—Monroe County

Data center virtualization helps public transportation authority eliminate 80% of its servers and slash energy costs.

Background

For more than 30 years, the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA) has provided public transportation within the city of Rochester and outlying areas. RGRTA currently oversees eight transit subsidiaries operating bus routes across Western New York. In addition to providing daily bus service, RGRTA also hosts the local metropolitan planning organization, Genesee Transportation Council.

Recommendations

In 2010, RGRTA evaluated its Rochester-based data center for potential information technology system upgrades. As a result of the analysis, it was recommended that RGRTA virtualize its 75 servers down to five blade servers to use space more efficiently and to dramatically reduce annual energy consumption.

To receive funding to help implement this project, RGRTA began working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and its data center outreach contractor, Willdan Energy Solutions. Willdan quantified the energy savings for the project and helped RGRTA apply for financial incentives through NYSEERDA's Industrial and Process Efficiency (IPE) Program.

“Working with NYSEERDA’s data center outreach contractor to develop our application was quick, painless and free! I would absolutely recommend this program to other public agencies looking to upgrade their IT infrastructure.”

*– Eric Farr, Grants Technician,
RGRTA*

Incentives and Energy Savings

RGRTA's data center virtualization initiative saved an estimated 260,800 kWh in annual energy consumption, 23 kW in peak demand savings, and \$19,800 in annual electricity costs. In addition to saving money on its electricity bill and reducing the physical and environmental footprint of its data center, RGRTA earned a \$31,300 incentive from NYSEERDA. For RGRTA, NYSEERDA funding proved to be a valuable resource to help offset capital improvement costs and implement energy-efficiency improvements in its data center.

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