

LARTIGILL
STATION

Leading the way to affordable energy efficiency with On-site Energy Manager

Case Study

Company Name:
Rochester District Heating

Industry:
Thermal Energy

Location:
Rochester, NY

Total Identified Savings:
Electrical
505,841 kWh (39.6%)

Gas
31,766 MMBtu (6%)

Total Installed Savings:
Electrical
99,233 kWh

Gas
8,021 MMBtu

Overview

Rochester District Heating (RDH) is the only customer-owned, nonprofit cooperative in New York State, providing reliable, cost-effective thermal energy heating services to 48 buildings in the city of Rochester—totaling more than 8.5 million square feet. The team of professionals who created this organization were driven to provide customers with affordable and environmentally friendly heating services from a generation plant.

RDH's mission is to guide this unique community asset through the 21st century by upgrading current infrastructure and investing in new technologies.

Objective

To better serve its customers, RDH's primary objectives are to increase energy efficiency, improve long-term viability, and advance the plant's steam production capacity.

Through NYSERDA's On-Site Energy Manager (OsEM) Program, RDH partnered with EMCOR—a NYSERDA FlexTech Consultant and nationwide leader in mechanical and electrical construction, industrial and energy infrastructure, and building services.—to help achieve these goals. RDH felt onboarding an OsEM was necessary for advanced guidance to improve energy management practices and recommendations for incorporating efficiency measures into daily business.

Measures Taken

EMCOR provided energy management guidance that helped inform RDH's day-to-day business operations. The development of the energy saving measures and corresponding metrics gave RDH another tool to use to drive improvements, including capital investment and implementation of low- and no-cost measures. The OsEM gathered information on the various systems and their operations, providing operational and maintenance guidance. RDH and the OsEM team were able to identify several opportunities and develop or improve energy tracking and saving tools.



1929 view of Lawn Street and the plant.

Lessons Learned

Over the two-year contract term, RDH and EMCOR gained valuable insight on how beneficial an OsEM is for project development and system analysis. It was extremely helpful for the OsEM to pull together multiple people and create a team with a wide variety of expertise. This allowed for many ideas and different views on a project, approach, and data analysis throughout the program. Through regular meetings, the team was able to brainstorm, prioritize projects, and interpret data.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred during more than half of the contract term, the OsEM had limited ability to fully complete some analyses and initiatives originally set forth in the scope of work. RDH will continue to work on developing energy projects with the Energy Management Plan and project list developed during the OsEM engagement.

Next Steps

Moving forward, RDH will expand its energy-saving agenda, applying the tools and experiences learned during the OsEM program. RDH will continue to identify and implement energy-saving projects.

The NYSERDA On-site Energy Manager Program

Through the On-site Energy Manager (OsEM) Pilot Program, NYSERDA cost-shares up to 75% of the cost to hire an OsEM. OsEMs work with companies to develop and implement successful energy and productivity projects. Projects may include operation and maintenance improvements, behavioral changes, energy efficiency upgrades, process improvements, throughput and scrap reduction improvements, and cost management.

Discover how to bring energy costs under control and improve profitability with NYSERDA.

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