



# Reducing energy consumption while maximizing efficiency

## Case Study

Sector:  
Colleges and Universities

Customer:  
Columbia University

Location:  
New York, NY

Measures Implemented:

- Lighting
- Heating and cooling
- Power
- Control
- Demand reduction
- Whole building improvements

“NYSERDA’s energy assessment provided a valuable planning document, with a broad range of energy efficiency projects and potential savings”

— Nilda Mesa, Assistant VP of Environmental Stewardship, Columbia University

## Background

Columbia University turned to NYSERDA to tackle a big idea: reduce its energy consumption and carbon footprint while maximizing efficiency. Together, they developed innovative solutions to help the University save millions, and the partnership has become a model for how other colleges and universities can benefit from working with NYSERDA.

## Recommendations

The University has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2017 under Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s PlaNYC Challenge. The University received support from NYSERDA to help plan, develop, and implement energy efficiency projects and buildings. NYSERDA’s costshared evaluation of more than 30 buildings at the University identified energy efficiency improvements, defined costs, and specified payback periods. For example, an energy assessment of the Columbia University Medical Center has equipped the University with a comprehensive planning document it will use to maximize greenhouse gas reductions and optimize payback in both new and old buildings. In addition, the evaluation addressed energy-saving opportunities in:

- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Lighting systems
- Fume hoods and steam
- Distribution systems
- Maintenance strategies

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