

# SAVING ENERGY AND PRESERVING A LEGACY

how a 1912 community center  
became 45% more energy efficient,  
while earning a \$5,375 rebate

The two historic buildings known today as the Backus Community Center, located in Backus, Minnesota, were on the verge of demolition just seven years ago. That was until the Citizens for Backus/AB, a local non-profit organization, acquired the buildings in 2002 and made the decision to preserve the International Falls community landmarks for generations to come.

With the original steam boilers from 1912 heating the entire community center and a 1,000-seat auditorium, energy efficiency became an integral part of the preservation effort. A sound roof and proper insulation would not only help the organization manage their monthly energy costs, but also help protect the building's interior from further weather damage.

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Russ Liupakka, External Relations Manager in Cloquet, presented Backus Community Center Executive Director Ward Merrill with a Custom Rebate of \$5,375.

Last summer the Backus Community Center received a new 28,000-square-foot roof with dramatic insulation upgrades, going from one inch of original insulate material to seven inches of R31-rated insulation. To be even more energy efficient, the Citizens for Backus/AB sealed or removed all unused roof vents and turned off the heat in unused areas. They have also begun the process of annually removing, cleaning and testing steam traps for replacement.

Since then, the energy-efficient improvements have paid off in more ways than one. Energy Auditor Greg Ernst stated, "Their annual gas usage in 2007 was 45% less than their three-year average from 2001 to 2003! That's a dramatic reduction, especially for a historic structure like this one."

On top of the huge savings seen on their monthly energy bill, the Citizens for Backus/AB also received a Custom Commercial Rebate of \$5,375 from Minnesota Energy Resources for their energy-efficient measures. With returns like that, the non-profit group plans to continue their energy conservation improvements as they remodel, renovate and reuse all portions of the Backus Community Center.

Take advantage of energy-saving rebates today!

for more INFORMATION

Minnesota Energy Resources  
24-Hour Customer Service **800-889-9508**  
or find more information online at  
[www.minnesotaenergyresources.com](http://www.minnesotaenergyresources.com)

