

Commercial Custom Rebate Program provides savings and improvements



The Story:

Minnesota Energy Resources provided more than \$47,000 in efficiency rebates to the City of Rochester Recreation Center, providing instant savings to complement long-term energy efficiency improvements.

The Problem:

The City of Rochester had ambitious plans to revitalize an aging recreational facility to improve the experience of program participants while realizing cost-saving efficiencies.

To maintain proper air quality for athletes and fans in the swimming facility, outdated Air Handling Units (AHUs) were working overtime and wasting energy. At the same time,

the technology responsible for maintaining conditions in the ice rink had fallen behind the times.

The city saw an opportunity to combine a superior energy-management strategy with modern technology. They recognized that it would not fit within their Capital Improvement Plan budget, so saving money would be a major motivation.



LIMITED CIP BUDGET



Energy rebates provided immediate and long-term savings to an aging recreational facility



- Partner with Minnesota Energy Resources
- Receive expert recommendations
- Get help with rebate fulfillment



\$47,676
OF ENERGY REBATES RECEIVED
THROUGH OUR PROGRAM

The year-round comfort and reduced operating costs provided by ENERGY STAR® appliances were desired. Our rebates made that a reality.

CASE STUDY

City of Rochester Recreation Center Rochester, MN

By partnering with Minnesota Energy Resources, the City of Rochester received Commercial Custom rebates amounting to \$47,676.00.



Control upgrades for AHUs



Chiller heat recovery system



Ice surface water deaerators

The Result:

Thanks to natural gas efficiency incentives provided by Minnesota Energy Resources, the City of Rochester received rebates in the amount of **\$47,676.00**. Moreover, they anticipate natural gas savings amounting to **\$24,788.40*** in the next 12 months.

Chief Operations Officer Ed Staiert was pleased with the outcomes. “We improved environmental conditions inside and outside of our facility,” he said. “And the rebate savings were important to help us manage our budget.”

The Solution:

The City of Rochester applied for and participated in the Commercial Custom Rebate Program from Minnesota Energy Resources. The energy rebate experts provided recommendations and support to help the city receive a variety of incentives.

Controls systems were modernized to enable more strategic air-quality management in the pool, ice arena,

gym and offices. This improved the performance of existing AHUs, making it unnecessary to invest in new units.

In the ice arena, upgrades enhanced the quality of the ice and the air. New ice surface water deaerators were employed to improve ice conditions while reducing hot water use. The equipment investment qualified for Commercial Custom rebates.

Prior to the improvements, the facility’s chillers were wasting heat. In fairness, that is the job of a chiller—a large machine that takes heat from the arena and exhausts it outdoors. This process makes it possible to make and maintain ice indoors, while keeping it comfortable for skaters. It also wastes a lot of heat.

To address this problem, renovations included innovative methods to effectively recycle energy from exhaust heat, rather than simply expelling it outdoors. The heat produced by the chillers is now used to melt ice shavings in the snow melt pit, supply radiant heat in the arena and heat domestic hot water.

“We improved environmental conditions inside and outside of our facility. And the rebate savings were important to help us manage our budget.”

– Chief Operations Officer Ed Staiert

The improvements will result in significant operating cost reductions over time. In the short term, they were also eligible for substantial rebates. By partnering with Minnesota Energy Resources, the City of Rochester received Commercial Custom rebates amounting to \$47,676.00.

**Estimate based on projected annual energy savings of 4,767 dekatherms and average commercial natural gas price of \$5.20 per 1,000 cubic feet.*

For more information about rebates and programs from Minnesota Energy Resources, visit minnesotaenergyresources.com or call **866-872-0052**.

