

The Art Institute of Chicago

Success Story



Customer

The Art Institute of Chicago

Projects

- Heat exchanger study
- Pipe insulation
- Steam trap testing
- Removable insulation jackets
- Gas optimization study

Project results

14 completed projects

Energy savings

269,872 therms

Rebate amount

\$151,777

Customer background

Founded in 1866, the Art Institute of Chicago is over 1 million square feet of tightly controlled museum space in downtown Chicago. In order to preserve their diverse collections, the Art Institute's staff regulates exact temperatures, humidity levels and ventilation specifications far above a typical facility.

"Without the program's guidance and support, the road to project completion would have been much more challenging."

— **Patrick Jones,**
Manager of Facilities and Energy
The Art Institute of Chicago

Project description

After partnering with the Art Institute of Chicago on earlier energy efficiency initiatives, the Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program team continued working with facility staff to identify new opportunities to improve system performance and reduce natural gas consumption while maintaining the strict environmental conditions required to preserve the museum's collections.

The Art Institute completed 14 projects, including a heat exchanger study, pipe insulation improvements, steam trap testing, removable insulation jackets and a gas optimization study. These efforts helped reduce waste, improve equipment performance and increase overall system efficiency. Patrick Jones, manager of facilities and energy, collaborated with Peoples Gas and engineering partners to prioritize projects with strong energy-saving potential and practical payback periods.

"The study revealed great energy-saving opportunities for our facility," Jones said. "Working with Peoples Gas, we developed a plan to maximize savings while targeting the quickest payback opportunities."

The completed projects now deliver annual savings of nearly 270,000 therms and more than \$151,000 in total energy savings, helping reduce operating costs while supporting carefully controlled museum conditions.

Impact

Through collaboration with the Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program, the Art Institute of Chicago successfully implemented 14 energy efficiency projects designed to improve operational performance and reduce natural gas consumption across the facility. The combined initiatives helped the museum identify practical, cost-effective opportunities to optimize equipment performance while supporting the specialized environmental conditions required to preserve its collections.

The completed projects — including heat exchanger studies, pipe insulation upgrades, steam trap testing, removable insulation jackets, and gas optimization measures — now generate annual savings of nearly 270,000 therms and more than \$151,000 in total energy savings. By strategically prioritizing projects with strong energy-saving potential and achievable payback periods, the Art Institute was able to advance a broader long-term efficiency strategy while managing capital investment requirements.

"The Peoples Gas team was a great partner in helping us successfully and cost effectively achieve our energy savings goals," Jones said.

The Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program team is available to help you capture similar savings. Call 855-849-8928 today to schedule a facility assessment with one of our energy experts.



**Talk to an Energy Efficiency
Expert at 855-849-8928.**

Terms and conditions apply. Program is subject to change.
Actual savings will vary by customer's energy usage and rate.
This program is funded by Peoples Gas customers in compliance with state law.
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