

Mass Save[®] Energy Efficiency Case Study

Brought to you by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

WEST SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

The West Springfield School District educates an average of 4,000 students from early childhood to twelfth grade and maintains a central high school (grades 9-12), middle school (grades 6-8), and a number of elementary schools across the town. Managed by an independent school committee since 1827, the purpose of the West Springfield Public Schools is to educate all students, enabling them to experience the joy of reaching their full potential. Its core values include: learning through relevance and fun, educating for excellence, appreciating “a mind at a time”, respecting each other and nurturing responsibility.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In need of new heating equipment at the High School, the West Springfield School Department partnered with Columbia Gas of Massachusetts and TRANE (an Energy Service Company), to find energy savings through the investment in new high-efficiency natural gas boilers to replace their old inefficient models. The new boilers are projected to significantly lower heating costs while maintaining a comfortable educational environment for the students. The project is estimated to save the City approximately \$33,700 each year, which represents an approximate savings of 27,000 therms annually. The annual energy saved from this single project is enough to heat approximately 33 homes for one year.



SAVINGS SUMMARY

THE NEED

Old inefficient heating equipment in need of replacement

THE SOLUTION

Installation of new energy efficient boilers

- **Total Project Cost**
\$339,400
- **Columbia Gas of MA/
Mass Save Incentive**
\$48,600
- **W. Springfield Contribution**
\$290,800
- **Simple Payback Period**
8.6 years
- **Estimated Savings**
\$33,700/year
- **Estimated Natural Gas Savings**
27,000 therms



COLUMBIA GAS AND THE MASS SAVE® PROGRAM AS A STRATEGIC PARTNER

Building on the success of this first project, Mayor Gibson and the City of West Springfield are working with TRANE to complete four additional school building projects and a municipal office building project. All five buildings are eligible to receive additional Columbia Gas incentives. The City of West Springfield has truly become an energy efficiency partner of Columbia Gas. Mayor Gibson explained, “The high efficiency boiler project would not have been possible without the financial and technical assistance provided by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.”

“Our energy efficiency partnership with the West Springfield School Department results in very real savings to our customer,” states Derek M. Buchler, energy efficiency manager at Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. “These savings translate into more money for student education and activities for the West Springfield school system.”

ABOUT COLUMBIA GAS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts is an energy services company serving nearly 300,000 natural gas customers in Massachusetts. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of NiSource Inc., based in Merrillville, Ind. NiSource Inc. is a Fortune 500 holding company whose core operating companies engage in natural gas transmission, storage and distribution, as well as electric generation, transmission and distribution. NiSource operating companies deliver energy to 3.7 million customers located within the high-demand energy corridor stretching from the Gulf Coast through the Midwest to New England.

ABOUT MASS SAVE

Mass Save is an initiative sponsored by Massachusetts’ gas and electric utilities and energy efficiency service providers, including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, National Grid, New England Gas Company, NSTAR, Unitil, and Western Massachusetts Electric Company. The Sponsors of Mass Save work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to provide a wide range of services, incentives, trainings, and information promoting energy efficiency that help residents and businesses manage energy use and related costs.

To learn more about these and other commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs available, visit www.MassSave.com/business or join the [Mass Save group on LinkedIn](#).


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Savings through energy efficiency