



Providing help. Creating hope. This is the inspirational calling card of Catholic Charities in Peoria. Serving 26 central Illinois counties, this busy social service agency helps improve the lives of 30,000 disadvantaged people every year.

These days, the home base for these helping hands — a 100,000-square-foot, 10-building complex in West Peoria — is now operating a bit more efficiently, thanks to the Ameren Illinois Act On Energy program.

Following a boiler failure in 2010, Catholic Charities turned to the Act On Energy program to help fund several boiler tuneups. Act On Energy provided a total of nearly \$1,750 in incentives.

“The incentives helped us complete 10 boiler tuneups at our Peoria campus,” says Al Halverson, Facilities & Special Project Manager. “Some of the boilers were more than 20 years old.”

Fritch Heating & Cooling, an Act On Energy Program Ally, performed the inspections and repairs. Various enhancements were made to different units, but the end result was always the same: “A better-running unit,” says Halverson.

As Catholic Charities has discovered, regular boiler tuneups are a habit worth adopting. Well-tuned equipment reduces energy costs, increases comfort, and extends the life of your heating system.

To encourage regular maintenance on HVAC equipment, Act On Energy incentives typically pay up to 50 percent of the labor costs of the tuneup.

“Tuneups will bring the performance level of existing equipment back up to factory specifications and save your organization energy costs and maintenance costs,” says Act On Energy’s Rod Rhoads. “The Program Ally can also give the customer a heads-up on problems that may occur down the road or let them know when it’s time to replace the equipment.”

Depending on many factors, such as age of the equipment, Rhoads says a tuneup can enhance boiler efficiency by as much as 40 to 50 percent, though 10 to 15 percent is more typical.

Even more important, regular tuneups can create a safer workplace.

“A tuneup will check out safety systems that are built into the equipment,” says Rhoads. “It

Benefits of Boiler Tuneups:

- Nearly \$1,750 in total incentives from Act On Energy
- More than 2,000 therms saved annually in natural gas usage
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Reduced risk of equipment breakdown and safety issues
- Every therm saved helps conserve precious natural resources

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could prevent potentially dangerous issues like carbon monoxide poisoning and fire.”

Along with the safety benefits, the boiler tuneups at Catholic Charities will reduce the agency's natural gas use by more than 2,000 therms a year. “These yearly energy savings are a major step toward our agency's goal to cut overall utility costs by 5 percent in 2011,” says Halverson, who expects to recover the \$2,000 spent on the tuneups in less than two years.

In the world of human services, every dollar saved is much more than a boost to the operating budget – it's a blessing to those in need. As Halverson says, “With a non-profit, every dollar saved is a dollar that can be used to help a client.” •

When a tuneup isn't enough ...

When it's finally time to pull the plug on outdated heating and cooling equipment, Act On Energy can help you upgrade to modern, cost-saving equipment. Our Business HVAC Program provides significant incentives to install new, high-efficiency HVAC equipment.

Does my organization qualify?

To qualify for a boiler tuneup, you must be a delivery service Rate GDS-2 natural gas customer of Ameren Illinois. Pre-approval of your project is required.*

*Air conditioner tuneup incentives are available, too! For more details on program requirements, go to **ActOnEnergy.com**.*

** Beginning June 1, 2011, all commercial gas customers will be eligible.*

Singing the Praises of Energy Efficiency

After hearing about the Act On Energy program at a meeting of the Business Office Managers Association (BOMA), Al Halverson of Catholic Charities quickly became an advocate of the program.

With Act On Energy's help, Halverson has completed energy efficiency projects every year since the program began in 2008, helping to reduce energy bills at locations throughout the large territory served by the Peoria Diocese.

“I've been working with Act On Energy for three years and we have received close to \$15,000 in incentives during that time,” he says. Along with the boiler tuneups completed in 2010, those incentives helped Catholic Charities upgrade outdated T12 lighting at locations throughout the state.

“What Ameren Illinois is doing with Act On Energy is great ... I would definitely recommend the program to other organizations,” says Halverson, who helps spread the good word in his current role as BOMA president. “Our experiences with Act On Energy have been very good ... the team members are very helpful.”

Energy efficiency. It's good business.

In its first two years, Act On Energy provided more than \$10 million in incentives to help business customers save more than \$17 million in annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, VFDs, process improvements and compressed air.

Why wait?

Act On Energy — and save!

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