



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM



### PARKLAND COLLEGE ACHIEVES NEW DEGREES OF EFFICIENCY

In its 50-year history, more than a quarter million students have chosen Parkland College as a stepping stone to success. Beyond creating sustainable careers, Parkland College aims to become a sustainable campus.

As part of the national Billion Dollar Green Challenge, Parkland maintains a self-managed green revolving fund that provides seed money for ongoing energy-saving projects. As Green Revolving Fund Coordinator for the college, Seth Rients seeks energy savings in every corner of the one-million-square-foot campus. Ameren Illinois has become an ally in this treasure hunt.

“Our goal is to save energy and money and to re-invest in future projects. Ameren Illinois incentives make projects economically viable,” says Rients. “Partnering with Ameren Illinois was a no-brainer for me.”

Between June 2017 and June 2018, Parkland College tackled more than 15 efficiency projects, ranging from lighting and HVAC to submetering and strategic energy management. During that time, the college received nearly \$24,000 in incentives from the utility and reduced its energy use by 170,000 kWh and 5,600 therms.

“What Parkland accomplished in a single year is remarkable, and the college continues to increase its efforts — and we’re with them every step of the way,” says Agnes Mrozowski, Energy Efficiency Advisor for Ameren Illinois. “In an era of budget cuts, we’re proud to help educational institutions get the most bang for their energy buck.”

One of the first places Rients sought savings was in the large refrigeration systems that provide cold water to campus. Ameren Illinois provided \$12,800 in Custom incentives, which covered roughly two-thirds of the cost of eddy current testing of the aging chillers.

“Eddy current testing sends an electrical impulse that detects leaks and other imperfections,” says Rients. “The eddy current testing examined every single tube in the chillers. And as we spent time in the chiller plant, we saw other things we needed to do.”

But first, he would need to take a deeper dive into water flow.

“We had to do more metering and monitoring to get precise data on things like the volume and temperature of water flow,” says Rients.

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#### Grade-A Savings

Ameren Illinois can help educational facilities — including universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools — cut annual energy costs and improve learning environments. Cash incentives are available for a variety of energy efficiency projects, including:

- No-cost/low-cost energy efficiency improvements
- Lighting upgrades
- Heating and cooling system improvements
- Commercial kitchen equipment upgrades
- LED exit signs, and vending controls
- Motor upgrades
- Steam system improvements
- Custom projects

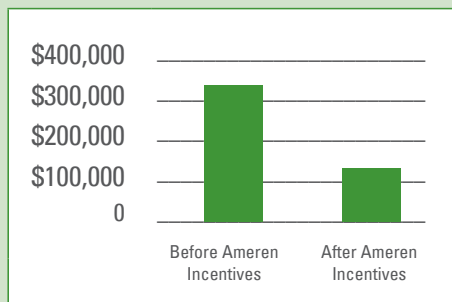
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*“In an era of budget cuts, we’re proud to help educational institutions get the most bang for their energy buck.”*

— Agnes Mrozowski,  
Energy Efficiency Advisor

# Become a Student of Energy Efficiency

## Building Automation & Chiller Optimization Project Cost Comparison



## Metering and Monitoring: Track Usage. Target Savings.

Advanced sub-metering and energy monitoring can help your business gain crucial insight into when, where, and how much energy is being used in your facility. Ameren Illinois provides cash incentives that cover up to 100 percent of the cost to install enhanced monitoring equipment and software.

Through its Metering & Monitoring offering, Ameren Illinois provided cash incentives that covered 100 percent of the cost to install enhanced monitoring equipment and software.

"Advanced sub-metering and energy monitoring can show you when, where, and how much energy is being used in your facility," says Mrozowski. "This makes it easier to pinpoint specific areas for upgrades."

*"In this climate of state budget cutbacks, public entities need energy efficiency more than ever."*

— Seth Rients, Green Revolving Fund Coordinator at Parkland College

A cross-functional team also helps identify upgrades, as part of Ameren Illinois' Strategic Energy Management (SEM) offering.

The SEM program assists the customer in setting up a structure and a team focused on reducing energy use. The team's efforts address executive sponsorship, assessment, goal-setting and communications.

"We meet once a month to identify new projects and move them forward," says Rients, whose team works closely with Ameren Illinois Energy Advisor Rod Rhoads and Key Account Manager Brad Pintar. "I've never waited more than a few hours for an answer from Ameren Illinois."

With smart energy use on the agenda, Parkland's SEM team is creating a culture of sustainability. And technology only adds to the college's sustainability efforts — without sacrificing comfort. For example, software and sensors automate savings by powering down unoccupied rooms.

In fall 2018, Ameren Illinois provided more than \$201,000 in Custom incentives for a building automation project that would bring three campus buildings up to modern energy code requirements and incorporate chiller optimization controls. Those incentives covered 60 percent of project costs and reduced the payback period to just 1.25 years. The college also took advantage of deep discounts from Ameren Illinois to replace 1,700 linear fluorescent bulbs with high-efficiency LED lighting.

"It's amazing to only spend \$1 for an LED bulb that would normally cost \$5 to \$9," says Rients. "Incentives like these make a huge difference."

In fact, Ameren Illinois incentives have been a catalyst to help Parkland achieve \$200,000 in annual energy savings (and counting) — a solid start on its \$1 million goal.

By walking the talk on sustainability, Parkland College is ensuring that its mission to "engage the community in learning" includes lessons in energy efficiency.

"Energy savings give us money to tackle more projects," says Rients. "In this climate of state budget cutbacks, public entities need energy efficiency more than ever."

## Put Theory Into Practice — and Save!

Since 2008, the award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has provided millions in incentives to help business, nonprofit and public organizations reduce their annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air.



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