

# Ann Arbor Public Schools

Case Study: Chiller tune-up, building management system, and lighting



**\$103,625**  
incentive dollars

**2.8 M kWh**  
saved annually

## The challenge

The mission of the Ann Arbor Public Schools is to ensure that each student realizes their aspirations while advancing the common good, by creating a world-class system of innovative teaching and learning. With this as a backdrop for ongoing success, the Ann Arbor schools values the environment as a means of encouraging common good through improving energy efficiency and lowering their operating costs.

To this end, Ann Arbor Public Schools has been a valued participant in DTE's Energy Efficiency Program for Business and have taken an active role in reducing energy waste by making improvements at many facilities over the last several years. They are the model school district in energy efficiency, taking a long-term and comprehensive view of energy improvements that can be made at a diverse portfolio of building types and uses.

Having been such an active participant over so many years, their opportunities have become more complex while searching for deeper savings, and this is where DTE comes in. Our engineering and outreach teams worked closely with Ann Arbor Public Schools, identifying greater opportunities and calculating energy and cost reductions.

## The solution

Working closely with DTE, we evaluated ongoing maintenance operations as well as capital improvements and new investments with Ann Arbor Public Schools to determine which opportunities provide the biggest payback. Their largest improvements include installing and upgrading the district's Building Management Systems (BMS) at 27 locations, saving 2,741,742 kWh annually and receiving over \$92,000 in incentives. Not only does the BMS provide the obvious cost and energy savings, but it is also a critical piece in modernizing and improving operations throughout the school district. These projects had a focused approach of saving energy and public resources while lowering their environmental impact.

# Savings in action

Recent projects at Ann Arbor Public Schools included district-wide installation of upgraded Building Management System, chiller tune-ups, and LED lighting upgrades. Chiller tune-ups are a recommended maintenance item that offers great savings and assures that capital-intensive equipment runs efficiently and properly year-over-year. As an ongoing maintenance item, we continue to work with the school district tuning their chillers biennially. We also look forward to continually advising on the latest technologies and where their best returns and greatest savings opportunities remain.

## Project details

### Chiller tune-up

69,097 kWh annual energy savings

\$10,357 incentives

### Lighting

8,873 kWh annual energy savings

\$582 incentives

### Building management system

2,741,742 kWh annual energy savings

\$92,686 incentives

## Get started

Updating your facility and performing routine maintenance can lower your operating costs by thousands. Our Energy Advisors can guide you through our incentive program and the online application process.

**Call us at 866.796.0512 (option 3)**



3,065 tons  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduced  
annually

“The Ann Arbor community recognizes that we all have a role to play in reducing energy waste and minimizing harmful emissions, so it only made sense that the children in this community learn the value of energy efficiency at a young age.”

Emile Lauzzana,  
Executive Director of  
Physical Properties



Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
are equivalent to avoiding

241.4 M

number of smartphones  
charged



Emissions saved are  
equivalent to removing

442

passenger vehicles from  
the road for a year



Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
are equivalent to avoiding

2.22 M

pounds of coal  
burned