

Custom Incentives

The Oaks Academy

The opportunity

The Oaks Academy, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school in downtown Indianapolis, faced ongoing challenges with an aging HVAC system that was costing them time, money and comfort. Frequent system failures and malfunctioning alarms forced maintenance teams to manually monitor operations or wait until temperature fluctuations made the facility uncomfortably warm or cold. Additionally, the outdated system lacked scheduling capabilities, causing units to run continuously and drive up energy costs.

Upon joining the school in March 2023, Mike Temm, Director of Operations, prioritized improving the HVAC system's performance to enhance the comfort and well-being of students and faculty. Ultimately, the school decided to invest in a new HVAC controls system.

The project

AES Indiana offers Custom Incentives for commercial-rated businesses to assist in energy-efficient projects that help reduce capital investments while benefiting long-term energy savings.

In 2023, The Oaks Academy submitted a pre-approval application with AES Indiana's Custom Incentives program. Once approved, The Oaks Academy partnered with North Mechanical to begin their project, which included upgrading their HVAC controls and adding settings to allow occupied/unoccupied modes and temperature set points.

The results

With their new HVAC system, The Oaks Academy's annual electric costs decreased by 26 percent in 2024 compared to 2022. In addition, the incentive, coupled with the first year of savings, has nearly paid for the entirety of the project, allowing them to invest more in other maintenance needs for their historic building, built in 1920. Alarms have been installed to alert to any future issues so they can be addressed efficiently. And above all, their building has become more consistently comfortable, with fewer hot or cold spots.

"If we didn't receive the incentive, we would likely not have been able to get the project off the ground."

- Mike Temm, Director of Operations, The Oaks Academy



Project fast facts:

First year

547,620 kWh

Estimated annual energy savings

\$24,643

Estimated annual cost savings*

\$41,523

AES Indiana incentives paid to customer

*Calculated at an estimated rate of \$0.045 per kWh.

AES Indiana offers business customers a wide range of programs to support energy efficiency projects.

Custom Incentives are available for energy-saving projects not offered in the Prescriptive Rebates program including New building construction, Commercial refrigeration systems, Process equipment, Compressed air systems and Energy management systems/building automation systems.

Prescriptive Rebates help businesses reduce their payback periods on energy-efficient equipment, including lighting equipment, HVAC equipment and kitchen equipment.

Have more questions?

To learn how your business can benefit from AES Indiana's Custom Incentives program, call **888-982-7071**, email info@aesindianarebates.com or visit aesindiana.com/your-business.