

Energy Efficiency In Daily Details

Since 2008, the plant operations team at Trinity Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala. has made energy efficient operations a priority. Through a plan developed in consultation with Hayes Energy and daily attention to detail, they have reduced the energy needed to run their 44-year-old hospital.

An on-site audit identified the primary opportunities to reduce energy use for heating and cooling the 960,000 square foot campus that includes a 560-bed, 11-story hospital and multiple medical office buildings. Using this knowledge, the team monitors energy on a daily basis and conducts in-depth assessments each month.

Every day, the hospital's natural gas readings are reviewed in the context of outside air temperatures and the system is adjusted based on these reports. A positive variance means all systems are operating correctly. A negative variance can indicate that something is out of adjustment, such as a leaking steam trap.

Monthly on-site checks measure discharge temperatures on air handler systems, hot and chilled water temperatures on air conditioning units, and steam trap and boiler efficiency.

Through this effort the hospital has increased energy efficiency, earning the EPA ENERGY STAR designation, meaning it operates with a level of efficiency among the top 25 percent of hospitals in the country.



Energy Use by Trinity Medical Center

	2007	2008	2009
Gas (mmbtu)	116,725	110,308	103,657
Electricity	35,636,941	34,776,862	32,538,400
(Kilowatt Hours)			