

# The Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Natural Gas Savings Programs Commercial and Industrial Rebates

## CASE STUDY

### CUSTOMER

Palmer House Hilton, Chicago

### PROJECTS

- Boiler efficiency improvements
- Demand-controlled ventilation
- Pipe insulation
- Steam traps
- Direct installation of pre-rinse sprayers
- Guestroom energy management system

### REBATE AMOUNT

\$58,500

### ENERGY SAVINGS

133,000 therms



**“The Peoples Gas rebates make it easier to get management to set aside capital for these projects.”**

– Eric Tschudy, Director of Property Operations, Palmer House Hilton



## Customer Background

Palmer House Hilton, the nation’s longest continually operating hotel, is one of Chicago’s most historic landmarks. The hotel is also impressive in scale, occupying 1.7 million square feet and spanning one city block. However, both its longevity and size present unique energy efficiency challenges.

## Project Description

The Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program has been working with Palmer House Hilton for several years to reduce energy consumption and costs without tightening its budget. In the competitive hospitality industry, rebate programs are often the tipping point to move energy efficiency projects forward. “Rebate programs make it more appealing for ownership to approve these projects and present an attractive return on investment,” said Eric Tschudy, director of property operations for Palmer House.

Palmer House recently invested in new kitchen demand-controlled ventilation systems for two of their main kitchens. The hotel’s Lockwood Restaurant serves three meals each day, resulting in virtual non-stop operation for the kitchen’s ventilation system. The new system reduced over a third of the exhaust volume and garnered more than \$6,500 in annual savings. Palmer House’s kitchens also benefited from free direct installation of pre-rinse sprayers for their dish sinks, saving both water and natural gas.

“The Peoples Gas rebates make it easier to get management to set aside capital for these projects,” Tschudy said. “Rebates allow us to do more projects and gain more savings. The rebates contribute to faster returns on investment and, along with the energy savings, make these projects worthwhile.”

## Project Team

- Eric Tschudy, Director of Property Operations, Palmer House Hilton
- Dan McGowan, Account Executive, Peoples Gas
- Jim Hauser, Outreach Lead, Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program
- Ted Owen, President, Owen Energy Solutions
- Brian Giese, Senior Account Manager, Inncom International
- Greg Nick, Sales Manager, Somes-Nick and Co.
- Dan Schuman, Chief Estimator, M&O Environmental Company

## Impact

Palmer House Hilton has earned over \$58,500 in rebates for natural gas energy efficiency projects. These projects included steam and condensate pipe insulation, steam trap replacements, a boiler tune-up, and three guestroom energy management projects.

By taking advantage of several energy efficiency initiatives available through the Peoples Gas Natural Gas Savings Program, Palmer House Hilton has saved over 133,000 therms annually, resulting in well over \$47,000 in operational savings per year.

**The Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Natural Gas Savings Programs team is available to help you capture similar savings at your business. Call 855-849-8928 today to schedule a facility assessment with one of our energy experts.**

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