

Country Club Uses Savings from Energy Efficiency Projects to Reinvest in its Members

Settled on 125 acres of the serene Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Pine Haven Country Club offers a beautiful 18-hole golf course to its dedicated members in upstate New York. Given its location, Pine Haven Country Club has always prioritized the maintenance and preservation of the local environment, creating an undisturbed oasis in nature for golfing, swimming, dining and enjoying the company of friends.

Recognized for its picturesque grounds in Guilderland, N.Y. since 1959, Pine Haven Country Club is a proud host of the Epson Tour and other prestigious tournaments as well as charity events that allow them to give back to the community and support local nonprofits.

The small business has grown exponentially since its founding with 60 employees during peak season who manage the 6500-yard golf course, Olympic-size swimming pool, dining facilities and pro shop. The electricity needed to pump the water to maintain the golf course and swimming pool along with the heating and cooling of the various facilities on the property, requires a significant amount of energy to keep its members comfortable.

"Part of managing a country club is to find cost savings in every department and area all the time," said Robert Ducatte, general manager of Pine Haven Country Club. "Our goal is to reinvest those savings into personnel, construction, repairs and new amenities for our members. Any savings we can find, especially in energy, which our members don't see, allows us to reinvest that money into amenities that they appreciate, such as food and beverage and the general atmosphere at our facilities." "National Grid has helped us find ways to both reduce our costs and improve our environmental footprint with programs for lighting as well as heating and air conditioning."

Robert Ducatte, general manager of Pine Haven Country Club



Pine Haven Country Club's pro shop needed energy-efficient updates to improve customers' experiences and cut excess costs.

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Considering it a priority to be a good environmental steward, Ducatte goes to great lengths to preserve the environment of the local region by partnering with National Grid.

"Part of being environmental stewards means taking advantage of the programs offered by National Grid," Ducatte said. "National Grid has helped us find ways to both reduce our costs and improve our environmental footprint with programs for lighting as well as heating and air conditioning."

The Pine Haven Country Club partnered with National Grid to install heat pumps, lighting controls, fixtures, ballasts and LED lamps at its clubhouse, pro shop and maintenance building. The project cost \$39,858.

With the improved energy efficiency, the project resulted in savings of 87,450 kWh and reduced the costs of Pine Haven's future energy bills by \$9,723.00 annually. Beyond boosting efficiency and cutting costs, the heat pumps also reduced the noise of the previous equipment and provided the pro shop with more consistent, reliable heating and cooling.



"We have been very happy with the results," Ducatte said. "Our initial investments will pay off over three to five years, but we're already seeing the benefits through positive environmental impacts and financial savings. We're very happy to partner with National Grid and utilize the programs they've provided over the years. From great financial incentives to strong partners who assess and install the equipment, we've been happy with the projects implemented. We look forward to the savings we will reap for many years to come."



Pine Haven Country Club partnered with National Grid to install more efficient heat pumps and quieter air conditioning at Pine Haven Country Club's pro shop.



With the betterment of its members and its environment always top of mind, Pine Haven Country Club is a haven for building community in the great outdoors.

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