

Energy Efficiency in Healthcare

Albany Medical Center

A picture of good health and energy efficiency

Providing superior patient care and student development is Albany Medical Center's foremost priority – and investing in energy efficiency is helping them achieve it. As strong proponents of environmental stewardship, Albany Medical Center eagerly partnered with National Grid to identify energy-saving opportunities. They chose to complete more than 27 projects, including upgrading to light-emitting diodes (LEDs), adding lighting controls, installing a new chiller and installing thermal blanket insulation on mechanical room components. Their new chiller delivered the biggest benefits by far, with lighting upgrades producing shining results as well. National Grid provided the technical support and financial incentives needed to make these upgrades a reality.

1500-ton centrifugal chiller enhances patient comfort and reduces carbon dioxide emissions

Although Albany Medical Center kept their six original chillers well maintained, four of those were more than 20 years old at the time they decided to install a new chiller. This energy-efficient chiller (with a larger rated capacity than any of the original chillers) provides more than energy savings and reduced maintenance costs; it provides better patient comfort. That can result in an overall more positive experience in the hospital and even improved healing.

In addition to greater patient comfort, the new chiller has helped Albany Medical Center significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Sustainability continues to be a priority, and this sharp emissions reduction helps advance that effort, as well as attract the attention of eco-conscious patients, medical professionals and patrons.

Total Project Results:

Annual Energy Savings:	3,224,000 kWh and 405,000 therms
Annual Cost Savings:	More than \$647,000
National Grid Incentive:	More than \$733,000

Chiller Results:

Annual kWh Savings:	793,327 kWh
Annual Cost Savings:	\$68,781
National Grid Incentive:	\$156,280



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Energy-efficient LEDs and lighting controls improve safety and aesthetics

No matter the facility, LEDs offer undeniable energy savings and performance benefits. But in hospitals, it's their superior color quality and similarity to natural light that are the most important benefits. In fact, better lighting can save lives in healthcare environments. The cooler color temperatures (bluer light) of LEDs can enhance hospital areas that require visual acuity with detailed tasks, helping doctors and nurses see better and complete their work with greater accuracy. Lighting controls make it easier to adjust light levels according to need. Plus, the more natural light of LEDs can make hospitals look and feel more cheerful.



"Albany Medical Center has been an active participant in National Grid's Energy Efficiency Programs. The hospital regards energy efficiency as a priority and sound corporate stewardship."

– Daniel R. Merrill, Senior Commercial Energy Efficiency Consultant with National Grid

Total Greenhouse Gas Reduction: 4,370 metric tons

Equivalent to:



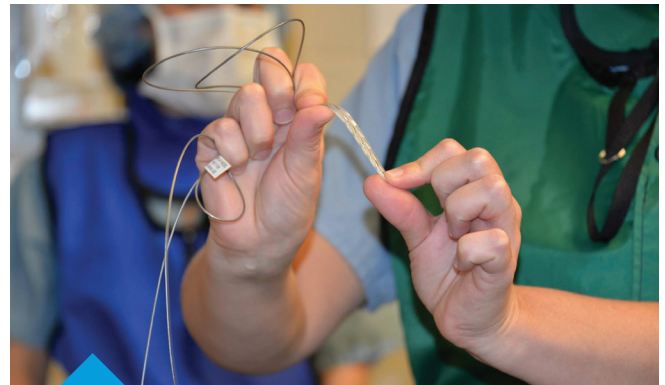
112,062 seedlings planted and growing for 10 years



4,370 acres of forest growing for 1 year



920 passenger cars taken off the road for 1 year



In 2016, Albany Medical Center became the first hospital in the world to implant an MRI-safe device (attached to the spine) to help patients manage chronic pain.



Team members of Albany Medical Center's Huntington's Disease Clinic have a lot to smile about. In early 2016, the Huntington's Disease Society of America named the clinic a Level 2 Center of Excellence. Only 39 clinics in the country have achieved this distinction.