

Case Study

A Rewarding Lesson In Energy-Efficient Economics for a California University

Customer	Northern California University
Location	California
Industry	Education
Sales Representative	Clyde Equipment Co., Inc.
AERCO Product Installed	Benchmark 3000*, Innovation 1060



What the Client Needed

A Northern California university was interested in upgrading its space heating and domestic hot water heating systems in a number of its dormitories. The building relied on a centralized system supplying steam to heat exchanges for space heating and to indirect domestic water heaters. The system was meeting the building's needs, but it was far from efficient. The university's plant had to operate continuously to meet year-round domestic hot-water demands, which cost a small fortune just to operate. Inefficiencies were in the 50 to 60% range, and the system was getting old.

AERCO's Solution

Clyde Equipment and the engineer hired to redesign the system were both familiar with AERCO products and their high performance. The plan was to replace the centralized system with a much more efficient dual system. The 96% efficient, tankless Innovation 1060 and the Benchmark 3000 offered the maximum operating efficiency the university was looking for:

- In the more efficient new dual system, the two Innovation 1060s would handle domestic load, and the two condensing Benchmark 3000 MBH hydronic boilers would take care of all heating.
- Space is always tight when performing a retrofit—but this wasn't an issue at all, since the tankless Innovations and Benchmarks both feature a small footprint and low mass design.
- The installation went smoothly—the system was up and running, ready for the 2011 school year.

Return on Investment

In the first year of operation, the Innovations and Benchmarks exceeded all expectations in energy savings. The school saved \$48,000 from the previous year, when the old system was operating. At that rate, the units would pay for themselves in a matter of just three years. After seeing these stellar results, the university upgraded two more of its dormitories with three more Innovations.