



WHEN LESS IS MORE: TANKLESS WATER HEATERS DELIVER SAVINGS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

It takes a lot of energy to run a school — human energy as well as electricity and natural gas. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, in many school districts, energy costs surpass the cost of books and supplies and are second only to salaries. The good news is that energy improvements have the potential to create better learning environments while saving our nation’s schools \$1.5 billion each year — and Ameren Illinois can help.

“Ameren Illinois provides cash incentives and resources — including a statewide network of specially trained Program Allies — to help schools, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their energy costs and their impact on the environment,” explains Jim Dillon, Senior Manager, Energy Efficiency Operations at Ameren Illinois.

In 2020, Ameren Illinois offered an energy incentive when the Argenta-Oreana School District sought to improve the efficiency of the water heating system at one school.

The school district partnered with Ameren Illinois Program Ally Janvrin Plumbing to replace two 250-gallon natural gas tanked water heaters and an energy-guzzling hot water recirculation system with the latest tankless water heating technology. Today, an installation of five, smaller efficient tankless units deliver the hot water the school needs, while using less energy.

Standard models store a tank full of hot water around the clock to meet sporadic demand. In contrast, tankless models heat water only when it’s needed, or when the recirculation loop reaches a pre-set temperature. By heating water only when needed, tankless water heaters eliminate the energy waste that occurs during standby operation associated with traditional models. Along with energy savings, tankless water heaters offer benefits ranging from reliability and long life to a more compact size and low-maintenance operation.

The school district achieved additional energy savings by adding controls to the hot water circulation loop, which runs from the heaters to each of the restrooms so that hot water is available at the taps. Previously, the circulation loop operated continuously year round, using natural gas to keep the loop hot even when no one was waiting at the tap to get hot water. Today, it only operates when school is in session and with thermostatic control.

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Get Creative with Custom Incentives

If you have an innovative idea for an energy-saving project, Ameren Illinois Custom incentives could cover up to 80 percent of your project costs!

The Ameren Illinois Custom Offering provides incentives for unique energy-saving projects or processes that may not qualify for incentives through our Standard Offering. Cash incentives, based on energy reduction, are available for a variety of electric custom projects.

Pre-approval is required for all Custom projects.

Find out more at
AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Custom

Get Schooled on Efficiency at *AmerenIllinoisSavings.com*

Grade A Savings

Ameren Illinois can help educational facilities — from K-12 schools to universities — cut annual energy costs and improve learning environments. Cash incentives are available for a variety of energy efficiency projects, including:

- » No-cost/low-cost energy efficiency improvements
- » Lighting upgrades
- » Heating & cooling system improvements
- » Commercial kitchen equipment upgrades
- » LED lights, exit signs and vending controls
- » Motor upgrades
- » Steam system improvements
- » Aerators and water saving devices
- » Retro Commissioning
- » Custom projects — including tankless water heaters

The new tankless water heating system will reduce the Argenta-Oreana School District's energy costs by more than \$2,700 every year. In addition to lower power bills, the school district received more than \$18,700 in incentives through Ameren Illinois' Custom Offering to reduce project costs on the front end. The Custom incentive, along with the 10% Early Completion Bonus, provided 62% of the total project cost. Those incentives reduced the project payback period from nearly ten years to under four years.

"The energy-saving projects you tackle today will make your facility more sustainable for years to come."

— Jim Dillon,
Ameren Illinois

"We understand that a cookie-cutter approach does not work for every project. Our Custom Offering provides incentives for unique projects or emerging technologies that save energy and money," says Dillon. "The energy-saving projects you tackle today will make your facility more sustainable for years to come."

The Power of Program Allies

Program Allies like Janvrin Plumbing help customers identify energy-saving improvements and cash incentives to help pay for the projects. These independent contractors are specially trained and receive updates on the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, so they're well equipped to serve customers' energy efficiency needs.

As a Program Ally, Janvrin Plumbing was able to connect the Argenta-Oreana School District to more than \$18,700 in cash incentives from Ameren Illinois to help cover the costs of installing a leading tankless water heating system that offered performance as well as energy savings.



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