

THE PILOT

Fall 10



Reducing Your Carbon Footprint – With a Money-Back Incentive

The Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch and the Archdiocese of Saint Louis have each taken steps recently to significantly reduce their carbon footprints, positioning themselves for future energy savings and earning some cash back along the way.

“With Laclede Gas’ energy-efficiency programs, we have established a great partnership that helps our customers conserve precious energy resources and reduce their environmental impact,” said Michael R. Spotanski, senior vice president of Operations and Marketing for Laclede.

As part of a recent renovation, which included the installation of a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system, the Hyatt earned nearly \$19,000 in rebates through Laclede’s Commercial/Industrial Rebate Program. The Hyatt’s Telkonet heating and cooling system communicates with the hotel’s front-desk computers to automatically bring guest rooms to a comfortable 70 degrees upon check-in. Upon check-out, the system automatically takes the room to a setback temperature for maximum energy savings. “Being smart about energy usage just makes good business sense,” said Brian Morris, director of sales for the Hyatt. “We noticed immediate energy cost savings after installing our new system.”



(L-R) Troy Hartmann of Pacific Energy, Laclede’s Ted Reinhart and Bill Weindel, and the Hyatt’s Brian Morris.

The Archdiocese of Saint Louis partnered with Laclede and Murphy Company and earned \$180,000 in rebates from Laclede to cover the cost of energy audits, boiler tune-ups and boiler replacements completed at 45 sites within the Archdiocese. The overall, positive environmental impact of the steps the Archdiocese has taken has been estimated at the equivalent of planting 2,500 trees or removing 110,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. “This program has been a win-win for the Archdiocese,” said Robert Palisch, manager – Archdiocesan building projects. “With the increase in the efficiency of the equipment at no cost to the parishes and schools, the payback is ongoing savings while also reducing potentially harmful emissions into the atmosphere.”



(L-R) Laclede’s Michael R. Spotanski, the Archdiocese’s Robert Palisch and Murphy Company’s Ryan Thompson.

Spotanski added, “Since natural gas truly is the Original Green Energy, we look forward to helping more of our commercial, industrial and residential customers [see sidebar] reduce their carbon footprints by taking advantage of our rebate programs.” For more information, please visit the “Rebates & Savings” page at OriginalGreenEnergy.com.

Residential Rebates Also Available!



Laclede’s Steve Donatiello, senior environmental engineer, recently installed a new high-efficiency furnace in his home. Taking advantage of available rebates and credits offered by Laclede and others, Steve was able to save \$900!

Here’s the breakdown of savings:

- \$50 = sales tax rebate as a result of the Show-Me Green Sales Tax Holiday
- \$525 = 30% federal tax credit
- \$200 = Laclede residential rebate
- \$125 = Missouri recycling credit

Thinking of going green with your next furnace or boiler? Be sure to visit the “Rebates & Savings” page of OriginalGreenEnergy.com to see how you can get money and/or tax credits for your high-efficiency space-heating equipment purchase.

Fun for the Whole Family

Our kid-friendly website, LacledeGasKids.com, has gotten a facelift. The site, which is home to a team of characters called The Gas House Gang, makes learning about natural gas science and safety fun for kids of all ages. The updated site features a fresh new logo and icon system, interactive games and a section for parents and teachers.



Affordable Green Housing

Laclede’s expertise in green building is creating some noticeable results for the way local homes are being built. These results are also getting attention among home builders nationwide.

Since 2008, Laclede has participated in the development of the Patrician Place Homes Project, a 10-home, new construction venture in north St. Louis County. The purpose of this project is to identify cost-effective, energy-efficient building practices for newly constructed homes. Over time, the goal is to make this type of project available to other municipalities looking to make use of federal and state funding to develop affordable green housing.

Laclede’s Utilization Engineering Department partnered with the Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri to provide consulting and verification services under the Green Building Initiative.

Through construction techniques, the right building materials and the use of high-efficiency natural gas appliances, the homes were designed to minimize utility bills for homeowners. Preliminary analysis for the 2008-2009 heating season shows the green-built homes, on average, cost about \$185 less to heat than the code-built control home. These homes

also demonstrated a 15 percent average reduction in their carbon footprints compared to the control home. Laclede’s staff developed ways to monitor energy usage history for each home, as well as fluctuations in indoor temperature and humidity settings.

The success of the project has garnered the attention of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). At its annual “GREENBUILD” National Conference Residential Summit, the USGBC selected Patrician Place as one of only 80 projects – from more than 1,200 applicants – to highlight at the conference.

In the Community



Laclede's Komen Team participated in the 12th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure®. Consisting of nearly 200 participants, including 11 breast cancer survivors, the Laclede team raised more than \$8,000 for breast cancer awareness.

Construction & Maintenance Foremen Buddy Loness (left) and Larry Hedrick grilled meals for the Laclede Gas 7th Annual United We Grill Barbecue to benefit the United Way of Greater St. Louis. The event generated more than \$5,200 in sales with more than 850 meals served.



Laclede employees helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity in St. Peters, Mo. In addition, employees barbecued for the work crews present that day.



Safe & Sure Corner

Now is the perfect time to have your furnace inspected by Laclede or a qualified technician. Natural gas appliances should be inspected annually to ensure proper operation and reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure. Call 314-621-6960 to make a service appointment today (Missouri Natural Gas customers should contact their nearest district office).



A New Look for Laclede's Vehicles



We're updating the look of our service vehicles (vans and trucks) with our new "Original Green Energy" logo and tagline! You may have already noticed some of the rebranded vehicles on the streets or in your neighborhood.

Dollar-Help

A recent study by the AARP concluded that there is a strong link between poverty and unsafe indoor temperatures, which have been shown to contribute to adverse health conditions, especially for the elderly. For many older adults, it is the aggravation of existing health conditions from exposure to even moderate indoor temperature conditions, rather than extreme exposure, that is of concern. The majority of residents receiving Dollar-Help assistance are elderly, disabled or single parents with small children. When you donate by checking a red box on your bill, you can feel good knowing you're helping to make a difference in the lives of your most vulnerable neighbors.

Visit dollarhelp.org for more information.



Went Green, Won Green, Too!

Robert L. Andrus, pictured with his wife Marilyn, was selected as the grand prize winner of Laclede Gas Company's second "Go Green, Win Some Green" e-bill enrollment campaign. He won \$1,000 cash and a donation made by Laclede on his behalf to a green charity of his choosing, St. Louis Green, Inc. Kathy Cooke was selected as the runner-up, winning \$100 cash and a donation to a green charity of her choice, the Missouri Botanical Garden. Not only is e-bill an easy and secure way to receive and pay your monthly natural gas bill, but switching to e-bill can make a significant environmental difference.



Call Before You Dig!

A national problem continues to affect neighborhoods and businesses alike: unauthorized digging that results in damages to utility services. According to the Common Ground Alliance, a national damage prevention organization, approximately 37 percent of all excavation damages in 2008 were the result of the excavator failing to call for a utility locate prior to digging.

Laclede has been proactive in its approach to lower no-call damages. By engaging professional excavators and our customers through targeted messaging, reminders and other steps, Laclede is creating a safer environment for all and has reduced its no-call damages to 18 percent of all excavation damages. Always remember, call before you dig: **1-800-DIG-RITE** (1-800-344-7483) or **811** (national one-call number). You can also visit www.mo1call.com. There is no charge to have underground utilities located and marked.



THERMO STATS

Weatherization can bring substantial savings. The Department of Energy estimates that weatherization efforts (installing insulation; performing basic heating tune-ups and repairs; and mitigating air infiltration through leaky doors and windows) can reduce residential energy bills by \$215 annually. Here are five easy ways to get to these savings:

- 1. Lower Your Thermostat**
Lower your thermostat for big savings
 - 1 degree lower = **\$21** savings during heating season
 - 2 degrees lower = **\$42** savings during heating season
- 2. Check Your Hot Water Temperature**
Lowering your water heater setting by 10 degrees can save you **\$10 - \$15** in annual water heating bills.
- 3. Caulk & Weatherstrip Your Windows**
Air sealing 5 drafty windows can save you **\$15 - \$30** during heating season.
- 4. Take Showers Instead of Baths**
Lower your gas bill and your water bill by saving more than **10,000** gallons of hot water annually.
 - Average gas savings = **\$85** per year
- 5. Seal Off Unused Rooms**
By heating 10% less space in your home, you could save **\$70** on your winter heating bills. Be sure not to seal off more than 20% so your furnace can operate properly.



Rebates & Savings

With the doubling of energy costs in the late 1970s and early 1980s, conservation became paramount for customers who wanted to keep their energy bills reasonable. In response, Laclede expanded its education initiatives to discuss the benefits of energy conservation. And in December 1981, Laclede launched a new program called the Insulation Financing Program, which provides low-interest loans to customers making energy-saving home improvements. The program exists to this day. For more information, please visit the Rebates & Savings page at OriginalGreenEnergy.com.

