

BENCHMARKING: MAKING AN EFFICIENT BUILDING EVEN BETTER

Hennepin County Library -
Minneapolis Central
Minneapolis

How does a library become a model for energy efficiency and cost savings? The answer: with a great design and employees willing to pay attention to the details. When the third generation of the Minneapolis Central Library, part of the Hennepin County library system, was built in 2006 it got a brand-new design with state-of-the-art energy efficient features. However, after time, Property Services staff realized that some of those features weren't being used fully and they decided the building could use a tune up.

As a new building with no comparable structures nearby, library staff found that the best way to evaluate the building's energy use was to look at its original projections and look for ways to improve. As Energy Manager Leah Hiniker said, "There are two ways to benchmark a building's energy use: against similar buildings or against itself." Facility staff found that the actual energy use in the Central Library could be reduced by some simple operational changes. Armed with a goal of meeting the building's energy efficiency potential, the staff rallied to find energy and cost savings.



“ The Minneapolis Central Library is now a model for other buildings; we want to encourage others to maximize energy savings. ”

LEAH HINIKER
Hennepin County Property
Services Energy Manager

Hennepin County Library - Minneapolis Central Stats

Address	300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN
Year Built	2006
Size	403,419 sq. ft. with an additional 136,068 sq. ft. for underground parking garage
Type of Use	Library, office space, parking, retail shop, bookstore and event space
Major Tenants	Hennepin County, Dunn Bros Coffee Shop
Building Ownership	Hennepin County
Building Services	Hennepin County

Pictured: Eric Ritchie, Mike Holien, Leah Hiniker, Tom Hollaman. Not pictured: Adrian Ronan, David Gurrola and Zane Klupacs



Energy savings continued on back ▶

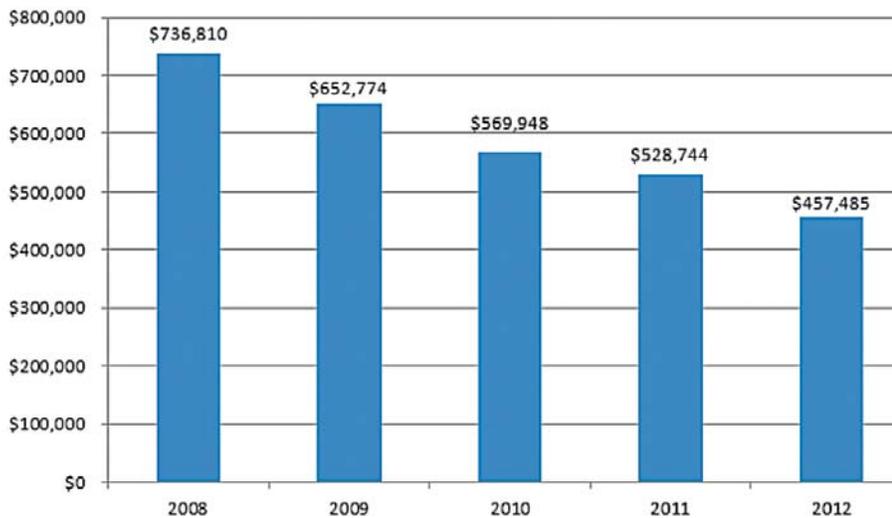
Let the Energy Savings Continue:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2011 funded a study that identified additional energy saving opportunities, leading to a better use of the heating and lighting controls. Library staff saw an opportunity to boost the performance of the heat recovery system in the building and fine-tune its daylight and occupancy lighting schedule. With these tune ups, the best building in the library system got even better.

Overall, the Minneapolis Central Library's energy use has decreased by 40 percent since 2008. The fine-tuning of the building in 2012 contributed to a significant portion of the library's cost savings. The building now serves as an inspiration to owners and managers of other buildings: there are always opportunities to save energy — and money.



Minneapolis Central Library Annual Energy Costs



**GET STARTED
SAVING
TODAY:**

DID YOU KNOW? In 2014, owners of buildings 100,000 square feet and larger will be required to benchmark their property's energy use using the EPA's free Energy Star Portfolio Manager. In 2015, this requirement will expand to buildings 50,000 square feet and larger.

Questions about Minneapolis benchmarking regulation?

Contact the City at 612-673-3091 or e-mail MPLSEnergyStar@Minneapolismn.gov

For more information on benchmarking, please visit the City of Minneapolis's [website](#).

