

SUCCESS STORY

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

Energy Stewardship

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Madison, Wisconsin, includes five buildings on its campus. The school, serving pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, is the largest and uses the most energy. Built between 1923 and 1961, these buildings have older lighting and HVAC systems, which have pushed annual utility costs above \$100,000.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee saw the need for a long-term plan to manage these energy concerns. Guided by fiscal responsibility and Pope Francis' call for "[care of creation](#)," the committee helped the parish take steps to lower costs and support its environmental goals.

Strategic Improvements

Working with FOCUS ON ENERGY®, the committee helped update the school's lighting and HVAC equipment, using utility bills to focus on projects with the greatest energy savings.



LED Upgrades

Upgraded classroom and hallway lighting with LEDs. Replacing fluorescent fixtures created brighter spaces and consistent color temperature.



Chiller Replacement

Replaced the older screw compressor chiller with a new high-efficiency scroll compressor unit, helping lower peak demand.



Solar Impact

Installed a new solar array, powering 12%-13% of the parish's annual electricity. This project was supported by Focus on Energy rebates, the [Solar for Good](#) grant program, and federal solar credits.

Additional parish improvements included:

Mechanical Efficiency Upgrades

- [Steam trap repairs.](#)
- [New high-efficiency hot water boilers installed.](#)
- [VFDs added to hot and chilled water pumps.](#)

HVAC Replacements

- [High-efficiency furnaces.](#)
- [Air conditioning systems.](#)
- [Heat pump water heater.](#)

Classroom Enhancements

- [Recommissioned unit ventilators and improved airflow control.](#)

Blessed Sacrament also worked with its [Energy Advisor](#) to estimate rebate amounts and use the [Project Planning Bonus](#). This helped the school get the most rebates and set energy-saving priorities for the future.



New LEDs provide brighter classroom light.

“Once we understood our utility bills, specifically demand charges, we realized the opportunity we had to reduce costs. Upgrading lighting and improving HVAC systems made a measurable difference. Focus on Energy gave us the tools and resources to make those decisions confidently.”

Jim Corkery
Building & Grounds and Finance Council
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Projects Summary

Benefits

- Lower operating costs.
- Enhance classroom comfort.
- Reduce peak demand.
- Advance the Catholic call for “care of creation.”

Energy Savings Equivalency

- Annual electricity use of 24 homes.

Utility Bill Savings

- \$21,183

Results & Impact

Blessed Sacrament saw major energy savings, including a **35% cut in electricity costs** and a **16% drop in natural gas use**. These savings equate to the electricity used by 24 homes in one year. The parish now saves more than **\$21,000 each year**.

These projects highlight the parish’s commitment to stewardship and sustainability. Students and staff report improved lighting and more comfortable classrooms. Now the parish is pursuing lighting controls and occupancy sensors to save even more.

Sustained Savings

Blessed Sacrament’s upgrades show what is possible with long-term planning and strong stewardship. The parish is set up for consistent savings and continued progress throughout its energy efficiency journey.

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REDUCING ENERGY WASTE ACROSS WISCONSIN

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities’ statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment. Focus on Energy information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that otherwise would not be completed.

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