

# CASE STUDY: OCEAN CITY COLLEGE TOMS RIVER, NJ

Tozour Energy Services, a division of Tozour Energy Systems

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## About Ocean County College

For more than 40 years, Ocean County College, a public two-year community college sponsored by Ocean County and the State of New Jersey, has provided area residents with the opportunity to benefit from higher education.

OCC offers students a chance for a new beginning, a chance to grow, a chance to learn and a chance to discover the world around them—all within a supportive, yet innovative environment.

## THE CHALLENGE

Ocean County College (OCC), located in Toms River N.J., is the alma mater to nearly 32,000 graduates. OCC prides itself on being a student-centered school, meaning that all decisions are made with the student's best interests in mind. With many colleges forced to raise tuition fees over the past few years, OCC was determined to make budget adjustments in order to avoid increasing tuition for their students.

OCC partnered with Tozour Energy Services (Tozour) to propose a strategy in order to help save money on utility bills throughout the college campus.

## THE SOLUTION

Tozour Energy Services developed a campus-wide Energy Conservation Project to help reduce some of the operational expenses of OCC. The project involved 15 buildings throughout OCC's Toms River campus. Tozour implemented 35 Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) to reduce consumption within the college's many buildings. Two key ECMs were demand ventilation control and waste heat recovery for the pool. These savings will be enough to eliminate an increase in tuition for OCC students.

This comprehensive solution not only would help the bottom line at OCC, but also would improve air quality for students. Improvements to indoor air quality are proven to have positive effects on student performance. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air quality directly affects students' health, comfort and ability to perform. Studies demonstrate that improved indoor air quality increases productivity and betters the performance of mental tasks such as enhanced concentration and recall.

## THE RESULTS

Shortly after implementation, the project began paying off with tangible dividends. In 2010 alone, OCC saw nearly \$262,000 in electrical savings and \$84,000 in natural gas savings. Beyond the direct savings, three buildings in the project qualified for New Jersey's Pay for Performance Program during the "enhanced incentive" period, which awarded OCC an additional \$383,222. That dollar amount has the potential to reach \$1 million in the years to come.

In addition to benefiting monetarily, OCC consumed 1.8 million fewer kilowatt-hours of electricity and 47,000 fewer therms of national gas last year. These annual energy savings are comparable to reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 1,570 tons, planting 7,850 trees and eliminating 275 cars on roadways.

Most importantly, OCC has been one of the few colleges in the region able to avoid raising tuition fees in 2010 and 2011. The college has stuck to their goal of keeping students at the center of everything they do by maintaining tuition and improving indoor air quality.