



**AKRON
ENERGY
SYSTEMS**

Community Impact Report

Celebrating Recent Accomplishments as We Plan for the Future

2023 was another year of growth for Akron's district energy system. This year, the Akron Summit County Public Library Main Branch and the Ocasek Building became system customers. Also, plans are progressing for system expansion that will allow us to serve eight additional buildings. Our valued customers' commitment to district energy is why we can continue serving and growing. We are honored to be their district energy provider.

Thanks to efficient system operations and our successful, long-term energy procurement strategy, Akron Energy Systems has saved our customers tens of thousands of dollars. Our approach allowed us to avoid significant energy price increases and reduce Akron's carbon footprint by 31% over the last ten years. Thank you to our Operations and Energy Supply Teams for delivering on their responsibility day in and day out with a focus on environmental responsibility.

As businesses transition from traditional in-office work, cities like Akron face significant challenges. In response, downtown office buildings are evolving into residential and mixed amenity spaces. District energy is vital in this redevelopment process as our heating and cooling services reduce commercial building capital investment costs by up to 20%. Akron Energy Systems will continue to work with the City of Akron and local businesses on this critical issue.

I thank former Mayor Dan Horrigan for his eight years of service to Akron. His achievements in clean water, the urban canopy, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability are noteworthy and are to be commended. Mayor Horrigan's leadership on issues related to the environment has created generational improvement for our whole community.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate and welcome Shammias Malik as the 63rd Mayor of the City of Akron. Throughout his candidacy and the period between his primary win in May through to today, Mayor Malik has been engaging the community with his relentless passion for positive change to benefit the citizens of Akron. Mayor Malik's enthusiasm and focus on collaboration and communication bodes well for progress and the future of our City and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Marc Divis

President, Akron Energy Systems

Akron Energy Systems Welcomes New Customers

The power of community is not just a saying ... it matters to the downtown property owners who strive daily to retain, attract, and bolster tenant satisfaction while working in the City on the hill. Akron Energy Systems commits itself to offering an economical space heating and cooling product to those property owners, and in 2023, we were pleased to welcome three new customers.

> Akron/Summit County Public Library

The Akron/Summit County Public Library faced a decision: replace their aging and inefficient HVAC system with an expensive in-building unit or become a part of Akron's Community Energy System. After months of negotiations, plan reviews, and a tour of the new community energy plant, the Library's leadership determined that community energy was a sound decision. Once a service connection was installed, a connection to our steam and chilled water lines was completed, and service began seamlessly earlier this year.

> Oliver Ocasek Building

As part of plans to remodel the Oliver Ocasek building to house the Summit County Domestic Courts and retain the existing tenants, Akron Energy Systems initiated a series of discussions with property ownership and project engineers to consult on the facility's heating and cooling needs. The existing equipment was approaching the end of its lifecycle, and removing and replacing it with new in-building equipment would be challenging and expensive. Community energy was a more economically feasible option.

The City of Akron invested in installing new service lines during the building's remodeling phase. Akron Energy Systems services are now active.

> The Goodrich Housing Facility

A local developer purchased 450,000 sq. ft. of space within the Canal Place complex with plans to create upscale apartments. The space is known as Buildings 10 and 17, and the company plans to offer efficiencies, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments to accommodate the young working professionals, adding to Akron's growing downtown housing stock.

The project includes amenities like party rooms, exercise facilities, and indoor parking, and the design will reflect the industrial vibe of the complex's history.

Steam and chilled water from Akron Energy Systems already provide heating and cooling to the space, so we worked with the developer to help bring their vision alive. Our management and engineering staff offered unique options to ensure efficiency and comfort would be a part of this innovative development.



Plant Operations Exceed Expectations for Efficiency and Reliability

Reliability is one of Akron Energy Systems' core goals. In 2023, operational performance surpassed expectations as we experienced no operational downtime due to equipment failure or outside utility interruptions. We exceeded production estimates and significantly increased steam, chilled water, and hot water production levels.

Recently, we received a new steam turbine which is a critical addition to our plant. Crews are preparing to install piping, supports, and electrical controls for the turbine, and we anticipate it will be operational by the second quarter of 2024. This vital equipment will enable us to create 'in-house' electricity by using the turbines to reduce supply steam pressure from 300 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG) to a distribution level of 125 PSIG. This process will eliminate the need for mechanical steam reduction, and by capturing the steam pressure through the turbine, we will make electricity.

The system's condensate return process also continued to improve in 2023. The captured condensate contributes to our overall recycling and conservation markers and helps to bolster Akron Energy Systems' commitment to sustainability.

- **99.999%** reliability
- Condensate return increased by **12%**
- 2 boilers were brought online for **efficient operation** of fuel oil backup

Akron Energy Systems' plant maintained exceptional operational reliability this past year.



A new steam turbine has been added to our system.



The system's condensate return increased in 2023.



Safety Remains a High Priority

Safety continues to be a top priority for Akron Energy Systems. As of October 23, 2023, we recorded one OSHA-designated injury with no lost time during the past year. That equals 1,623 days since our last "lost time accident."

New hires complete thorough safety orientation and training, including details on Akron Energy Systems' safety expectations, Hazard Awareness, Office Ergonomics, and Fire Extinguisher training.

Technicians receive safety training.



Our Investment in the Power of Community Continues

> You Matter

The second annual You Matter event was a huge success, as many local community support agencies joined our efforts to provide attendees with backpacks and school supplies, fun crafts and activities, and food and refreshments for the kids and their families. You Matter is truly a community event, and it takes the support of local businesses and organizations and the dedicated effort of so many to ensure its success. Akron Energy Systems would like to extend a special thank you to Joy Park Community Center and its staff, Summit Racing, the City of Akron, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron Summit County Public Library's Book Mobile, Zion Temple Baptist Church, Akron Art Museum, Akron Rubber Ducks and the City of Akron's Fire and Police Departments.

We look forward to continuing this vital community event next year.

> The Cool Zone

Nothing provides relief when it's hot outside like Akron Energy System's Cool Zone misting station. Our Cool Zone, which has been a presence at local community events for the past three years, made appearances at the Summit County Health Department, the All-American Soap Box Derby, Akron's Pride Festival, the Akron Marathon Race Series, and the Akron Art Museum Kids Art Fest.

> First Tee

Akron Energy System continued its support of Akron's First Tee program in 2023. Kevin Hohlefelder, our Vice President of Sales, volunteers to coach program participants, and we support events as a program sponsor. The First Tee program integrates the game of golf with character-building. It creates learning experiences that help kids uncover their inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience to carry to everything they do.

Kids receiving backpacks filled with school supplies during the "You Matter" event at Joy Park Community Center.



The Akron Fire Department provided fire engine tours during the "You Matter" event at Joy Park Community Center.



Families taking advantage of the Akron Energy Systems' Cool Zone misting station.



A Greater Akron First Tee program participant showing off her golf talents.





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