



Applying for and receiving a custom retrofit grant from PSE made a big difference for Museum of Glass when it was time for the nonprofit to upgrade old, inefficient equipment. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Glass*

Energy-efficiency incentive helps museum upgrade old furnace

A case study of PSE's Custom Retrofit Grants program

Customer background

Museum of Glass (MOG) in Tacoma, Wash., is a nonprofit that hosts more than 110,000 annual visitors. It is the West Coast's largest and most active museum glass studio. Guest artists from across the globe work in MOG's hot shop to create pieces for the museum's galleries and gift shop.

Energy challenges and opportunities

In early 2020, MOG staff knew it was time to replace one of their hot shop's tank furnaces, which is the type of equipment used in glassmaking to heat glass to extremely high temperatures. Not only was the 13-year-old tank furnace inefficient in terms of energy usage, the interior brick lining had a fissure that exposed hot glass to pieces of debris and risked the artwork of both visiting artists and the hot shop team.

With attendance and revenue impacted by the pandemic, museum leadership weren't certain if they'd be financially able to replace the old furnace.

Energy savings at a glance



GAS SAVINGS
4,236 therms



PSE INCENTIVES PAID
\$29,652



ENERGY COST SAVINGS
\$2,076

* Energy and cost savings are annual.

“PSE's grant made this new furnace happen for us. Almost immediately, our natural gas usage was reduced by 25%. We expect this savings to grow with increased use of the furnace by our hot shop artists.”

Deborah Lenk
Executive director for Museum of Glass

How PSE helped

When MOG discovered that we offer incentives to help offset the costs of projects that produce verifiable energy savings, the excitement was real. It meant that 40% of the cost of the furnace upgrade would be offset by a custom retrofit grant, which made the project feasible for the museum.

Without their PSE incentive, MOG would not have been able to replace the tank furnace as quickly as they did.

Installation of the new furnace, a 1,000-pound-capacity Day Tank made by Seattle-based Spiral Arts, was completed in July 2021.

Results

The new energy-efficient furnace reduces the museum's natural gas usage by about 4,200 therms annually. That equates to energy cost savings of about \$2,000 every year.

With lower energy bills, the museum is able to support its renowned K-12 education and veteran-support programs, which serve more than 8,000 Kindergarten through college students and about 100 soldiers and veterans annually.

Start your energy-management journey

Learn more about PSE's Custom Retrofit Grants program at pse.com/customgrants. Or get in touch with the program directly by emailing grantapplications@pse.com.



A new energy-efficient tank furnace in the Museum of Glass hot shop lowers the museum's annual energy bill by about \$2,000. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Glass*



Pieces of glass artwork sold in the gift shop at Museum of Glass are created in the museum's hot shop, which now consumes less energy after an efficient upgrade to replace an old tank furnace. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Glass*



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