FOSSIL FUEL REDUCTION—AN UNEQUALED ACHIEVEMENT

Aramark was contracted to implement an energy conservation program at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, Florida. The facility sits on over 600 acres with more than 100 buildings covering nearly two million square feet. It is essentially a self-contained city, with its own power plant, water supply system, wastewater treatment plant, two chiller plants, etc. Most electricity was purchased from Florida Power (now Progress Energy) with steam turbine generators providing full back-up power. The power plant also provided heating and process steam to the campus through an extensive distribution system, primarily in underground tunnels.

When the program started in 1994, Florida State Hospital consumed 459,434 MMBTU’s of fossil fuel and 31,405,980 KWH in electricity each year. Today, that fossil fuel consumption has been reduced by 93%, while electric consumption is 35% lower.

Aramark started the program by first reducing unnecessary steam usage by repairing leaking distribution lines, reducing the pressure of the steam in the distribution system from 100 psi to 15–40 psi, and repairing/replacing building controls. Simultaneously, Aramark’s technical staff trained the in-house staff at Florida State Hospital in proper operating policies and procedures that needed to be implemented and how to accomplish them. These rigid operating protocols were drafted and devised. In early 1996, the contract was revised to bring a Facility Manager in from Aramark to oversee the Hospital’s Operations and Facilities Department.

Major Impact on Energy Consumption

One plant had steam absorption machines that necessitated the operation of the Hospital’s boilers 24/7, 365 days per year. By inter-connecting distribution lines from both chiller plants, the electric chillers provided air conditioning to the entire campus, enabling the facility to shut down the boiler plant six months each year.

The fossil fuel reduction is an achievement that we feel is unequalled anywhere, and Aramark is very proud to have been a part of this accomplishment.