

WINTERTHUR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS CORPORATE ENERGY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers Lauds Major Conservation Improvements

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library's recent conservation program—which cut energy use 20 percent—has led to it receiving the prestigious Corporate Energy Manager of the Year Award from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers.

Winterthur's conservation program also reduces fluctuations in temperature and humidity, which improves the comfort of its visitors and the longevity of the 85,000 objects in 175 period-room displays. It was funded by a 2012 Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"It's not visible to the visitor," said John Castle, Director, Facilities Services & Plant Engineering. "It's all behind the scenes." And it's quite a lot behind the scenes.

Winterthur's mechanical infrastructure includes a central steam plant, two central chilled-water plants, multiple high- and low-pressure air-handling units, hundreds of induction units, multiple fan coils, and multiple pumps. They are tied together through a network of false walls, pipe chases, tunnels and hidden mechanical alcoves. To say the system is complicated is a huge understatement.

Castle and his team implemented 33 facilities improvement measures that changed the environment, upgraded infrastructure, reduced energy consumption, provided real-time system monitoring, and gave facilities, staffers and curators tools to track and understand what is happening in their unique museum.

The numbers testify to their results. From 2012 to 2014, the number of degree days (temperatures above and below 60 degrees that call for heating and cooling) rose from about 5,050 to about 5,750. Yet, thanks to the improvements, Winterthur's average gas consumption fell from 750,000 to 600,000 cubic feet, and its average monthly electrical usage fell from about 750,000 kilowatt hours to about 600,000. So the monthly utilities bill dropped from \$105,000 to under \$80,000.

To enhance efforts to decrease energy consumption, fine-tune the improvement, and protect one of the country's greatest historical treasures, Castle has instituted a continuous commissioning program that promises to keep his team in front of operational and control strategies to make Winterthur a leader in museum energy conservation.

Winterthur's Facilities Department and Conservation Department worked together as a team for more than a year to plan the upgrade. They worked with Limbach Engineering & Design Services, and other team members were Green Energy Controls and the Image Permanence Institute at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Winterthur had undertaken several efforts over the last decade to develop energy saving protocols, but staffers were consistently frustrated by the inability of monitoring systems to provide reliable real-time environmental information that would insure collection safety while conserving energy.

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John Castle, Winterthur Director, Facilities Services & Plant Engineering. *Image Courtesy of Winterthur.*

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 pm, Tuesday- Sunday.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.



WINTERTHUR

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“All of our objects have their own unique climate preferences,” Castle said, “and this program allows us to better create those climates.”

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