

" Out with the Old and in with the New"

New York Schools going, going, green.....

Updated Co-Generation Technology Makes sense

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*F*or more than a decade, Auburn High School in Auburn, New York has been in the forefront of saving money on their energy bills using a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system. CHP, also known as cogeneration, is a green and efficient technology that uses natural gas to generate electricity and hot water simultaneously. In the Fall of 2006, the Auburn school district installed another cogeneration system at its East Middle School facility employing a modular Aegen Thermopower TP-75 system manufactured by Aegis Energy Services of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Aegis Energy Services also provided a comprehensive maintenance and service plan to ensure continued savings month after month.

After the first year of operation, it was clear that the East Middle School was achieving much better savings than the Auburn High School with the new CHP system and service program. East Middle School's experience convinced the Auburn High School that they were missing out on additional energy savings because of their existing older technology and associated maintenance issues. In the Fall of 2007, the Auburn High School began replacing their old CHP equipment with three new state-of-the-art Aegen ThermoPower TP-75's from Aegis Energy Services. The 225 kW CHP plant was put into operation in January 2008 and has enjoyed the same success as the East Middle School. "With new technology comes new opportunity", says Lee Vardakas, General Manager of Aegis Energy Services of Holyoke, Massachusetts. "Aegis Energy Services continuously improves its designs and equipment to take advantage of new technology. These improvements provide our customers with more reliable and efficient equipment requiring less maintenance and generating more energy savings. We can't rely on old technology to help our customers combat rising energy prices. What worked years ago may not work as well today."

"For example, to manage the operation of the CHP systems, Aegis Energy Services has to be able to remotely communicate with our cogeneration units in real time. This communication is a crucial aspect of their operation. In the past, communications traveled through a dial-up modem once or twice a day that was consistently slow and at times unreliable (similar to the outdated technology that was replaced at the Auburn High School). Additionally, because of the many locations throughout the country, costs for long distant phone calls became a large expense.

"Three years ago, Aegis Energy Services adopted internet-based controllers on all of its systems. Our competition still has not improved its communication systems to ensure the financial success and longevity of their equipment," says Lee Vardakas. "With internet

technology, Aegis Energy Services is able to remotely view the current status of every CHP system on a single computer screen in real time 24 hours per day. This allows us to identify potential problems and quickly make corrections remotely or dispatch a technician, if needed. Faster response time translates into more reliable and longer operating systems that provide the maximum energy savings for our customers.”

Since 1985, Aegis Energy Services has continuously improved its combined heat and power systems to better serve our customers. As utility costs rise, Aegis Energy Services is your best defense against rising energy costs.

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