



# Energy Efficiency Case Study

Wesleyan University  
Middletown, CT

## Background

Wesleyan University, founded in 1831, is a diverse liberal arts community in Middletown, Connecticut. The student body of approximately 3,000 undergraduate and 200 graduate students is housed on a 316-acre historic New England campus that offers the comfort of an intimate and collaborative learning environment, supported by renowned faculty, cutting-edge facilities, and unique research opportunities.

The school has a strong commitment to sustainability. Wesleyan has supported local efforts such as achieving the Sustainable CT certification for the city, leveraging the Waste Not program to divert waste on move-out days, and partnering with the Food Rescue Program to provide donations to local shelters and prevent food waste.

## Goal

While sustainability is a core value at Wesleyan, the school has demonstrated significant commitment to energy efficiency and has a goal to achieve carbon neutrality for all greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. In 2018, the school signed its first three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Eversource committing to energy efficiency improvements on campus. The MOU was renewed for another three-year term in 2021. With an array of buildings with various functions and energy needs, these improvement projects had the potential to save the school money and energy, improve comfort and functionality for students and staff, and support Wesleyan's commitment to environmental stewardship.

## Outcome

Over three years of partnership, Wesleyan and Eversource have completed many projects to increase the energy efficiency of the campus, including the Chiller RFP project and the Rooftop Unit RFP. Both projects improve the heating and cooling technology on campus, make living and learning spaces more comfortable and decrease energy usage. The Chiller RFP project sought to upgrade the campus chiller plant, a project which saved 146,932 kWh annually and received \$683,775 in incentives from Eversource. The Rooftop Unit project worked to replace aging rooftop heating and cooling units, which saved 118,265 kWh annually. The school received \$186,174 in incentives for the Rooftop RFP project, which halved the project cost for the school and made the improvement possible.

In total, Wesleyan received over \$1.8 million in incentives for the entirety of the three-year MOU and saved over 3.3 million kWh via projects across campus. **“Eversource enables us to do projects we otherwise couldn't do,”** shared Andrew Plotkin, Director of Utilities at Wesleyan University. **“For small projects the incentives are certainly helpful, but their impact is truly seen on these larger scale projects. We couldn't justify investing in projects that would take years to break even. Eversource enables us to get to carbon neutrality that much faster.”**

Though the 2018 three-year MOU is complete, the school has signed up for another three-year MOU with Eversource which will continue to expand the energy efficiency and sustainability efforts begun during this first initiative.

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*The information in this case study is an accurate representation of this customer's experience at the time of publication. Results, including cost savings, from heat pump installation and/or other energy efficiency measures can vary based on each individual customer's situation.*

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## 3-Year MOU Results

**Total Incentives:**

\$2,149,700

**Estimated kWh Savings:**

3,313,200

**Estimated CCF Savings:**

267,700 ccf