



How Efficiency Maine Helps Small Businesses Watch Their Bottom Line

When Duke and Madeline Tomlin purchased the 1960s concrete block building for MTA Accounting in Belfast, they knew the un-insulated structure would be an energy drain, so they crunched the numbers, contacted an Efficiency Maine Qualified Partner and got to work. The Tomlins plan to own the building for a long time and recognized the value in upgrading to a modern system that would yield long-term gains.

The first task was to insulate and seal the building followed by the installation of solar panels. Next they addressed the heating and cooling systems. They installed multiple HVAC units which qualified for incentives from Efficiency Maine. Energy efficient ductless mini-split units were included for several reasons. First, the mini-split units keep the building warm while dramatically reducing the drain on heating oil. Second, the whisper-quiet system eliminates the noise from the antiquated window-mounted air conditioning units, ensuring employee comfort and concentration.

Objectives

- Update the inefficient heating and cooling systems in a 1960s building to reduce costs.
- Increase employee comfort year round.

Strategies

With help from Efficiency Maine's business incentive program, MTA Accounting installed mini-split heat pump units, making them a supplemental heat source and thereby taking the work load off an oversized and inefficient boiler, dramatically reducing oil consumption and increasing employee comfort.

"From the paperwork to the approval and installation, I was impressed with a process that was so fast and efficient. Efficiency Maine is a model for how programs like these should operate."

—Duke Tomlin



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MTA Accounting

Project Benefits

- Turnkey installation with little disruption in business.
- Estimated project savings of approximately 750 gallons of heating oil per year.
- Dramatic reduction in ambient noise.
- Estimated payback in less than 2 1/2 years.



MTA Accounting was easily approved for a generous incentive to make it all possible. They contracted with Efficiency Maine Qualified Partner, Sundog Solar, and the installation of the new mini-split heat pumps was a breeze. The units were strategically placed to address the heating and cooling needs in the most important parts of the building.

The project was a resounding success. The installation went quickly with little disruption to business. The employees love the new system. The boiler is rarely tapped to keep the office at a comfortable 72 degrees, and without the noisy window-mounted air conditioning units, the staff say they can focus better on their work. Plus the mini-split units provide more effective cooling at a much lower cost to operate.

The project was complete in January so MTA Accounting hasn't yet realized the full gains of the project, but the savings are estimated at 750 gallons of heating oil per year. Just another example of Efficiency Maine helping small businesses control energy costs.



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Efficiency Maine is the independent administrator for energy efficiency programs in Maine. Efficiency Maine's mission is to lower the cost and environmental impacts of energy in Maine by promoting cost-effective energy efficiency and alternative energy systems to help customers save electricity, natural gas and heating fuels throughout all levels of the Maine economy.

Project Summary

Incentive	\$600 (funded through RGGI*)
Project Cost	\$4,100
Oil Savings (gal)	750
Electricity Savings (kWh)	(7,480)
Total Savings (\$)	\$1,450
Payback (years)	2.4

* Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Project Team

- MTA Accounting
- Efficiency Maine
- Sundog Solar