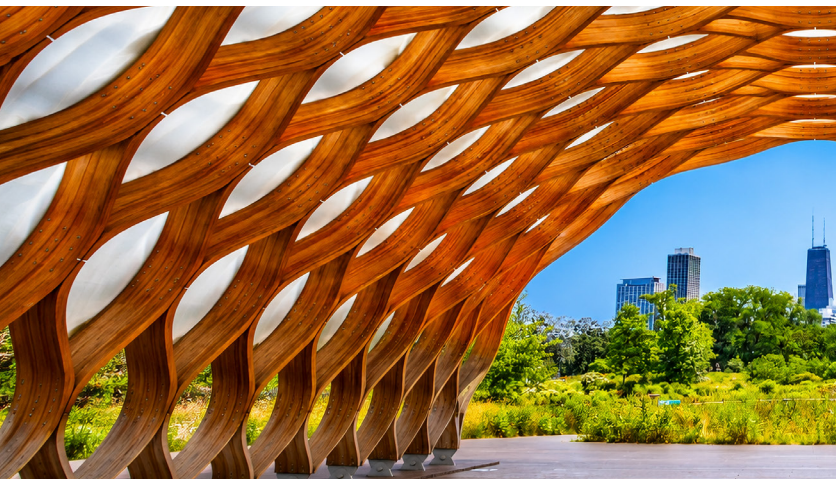




Lincoln Park Zoo Gas Heat Pump Project

Success Story



"I promised the zookeeper we wouldn't disturb any animals or daily operations; that we'd be all but invisible. When we were done, she gratefully said, 'Thank you for being invisible.'"

— Marc Merel,
Project Manager for Stanton Mechanical

Installed equipment

- Added six Robur gas heat pumps
- Integrated with existing hot water equipment
- Existing water heaters retained for supplemental heating

Facility highlights

- Regenstein African Journey exhibit
- Approximately 11,000 gallons of hot water used daily
- Installation completed while the zoo and exhibit stayed open

Benefits

- Increased efficiency (83% → 130%)
- Reduced natural gas use
- No disruption to animals, staff, and visitors
- Supports long-term operational reliability

Invisible work, visible results: upgrading critical equipment without disrupting animal care

Keeping one of Chicago's most visited attractions running smoothly, and providing high-quality care for the animals, requires dependable equipment behind the scenes.

At Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein African Journey exhibit, approximately 11,000 gallons of hot water are used each day to support animal care through preparing meals, cleaning enclosures, heating pools, and humidifying habitats. When aging water heating equipment approached the end of its service life, the zoo partnered with the Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program to install six gas heat pumps that improve efficiency while ensuring reliable operations.

Removing operational risk

This project wasn't just about installing new equipment — it was also about prioritizing the comfort and safety of the animals, staff, and visitors while work was underway.

Construction took place while the zoo remained open, above an active animal habitat, and during the pregnancy of a critically endangered rhinoceros.

Working with local partners Boilersource and Stanton Mechanical, the installation was carefully planned to minimize disruption to animals, staff, and visitors. Rooftop work, winter weather, and tight mechanical spaces were overcome to ensure operations continued without interruption.



Improving efficiency

Rather than generating heat solely through combustion, the new gas heat pump system captures additional heat from the outdoor air to produce hot water more efficiently than conventional equipment.

The project improved water heating efficiency from approximately 83% to 130%, reducing natural gas use while integrating with the zoo's existing hot water system.

A model for other facilities

Lincoln Park Zoo demonstrates that today's gas heat pumps can be successfully integrated into complex, occupied facilities without disruption.

For schools, healthcare campuses, cultural institutions, and other buildings with substantial hot water demand, gas heat pump systems offer a practical opportunity to improve efficiency while maintaining reliable daily operations.



Interested in learning whether gas heat pumps are right for your facility?
Contact innovative-solutions@peoplesgasdelivery.com to discuss your options.