



**AKRON
ENERGY
SYSTEMS**

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2024



LOOKING BACK, PLANNING FORWARD

It has been nearly five years since Akron's new Community Energy System plant began service.

From an operational perspective, the plant and distribution system have achieved 99.999% reliability, thanks mainly to our dedicated team members operating this critical community asset 24/365. Also deserving of credit are our customers, our System Users Group, the City of Akron's administration, and the Akron City Council. With the support of these key constituencies, Akron Energy Systems continues to provide reliable, economical, and sustainable thermal energy to downtown Akron.

We are also excited to expand community energy to new customers. Over the past few years, we have added the Oliver Ocasek Building, Akron-Summit County Public Library, and Greystone. In the year ahead, we plan to add three new customers and look forward to supporting sustainable infrastructure development for the Innerbelt project and Akron neighborhoods.

The community placed a substantial amount of trust and belief in Akron Energy Systems to deliver on its critical role for Akron. This solemn trust drives our commitment to invest in the power of community. One example of our effort to give back is the formation of the You Matter Foundation (YMF). This foundation was formed to enable Akron kids in disadvantaged neighborhoods to succeed in their life journey.

“The community placed a substantial amount of trust and belief in Akron Energy Systems to deliver on its critical role for Akron. This solemn trust drives our commitment to invest in the power of community.”

The Joy Park neighborhood has been the You Matter Foundation's initial focus. We are incredibly grateful to our partners, Pastor and Mrs. Mark Ward from Zion Temple Baptist Church, the City of Akron, and many local charities and companies. You Matter Foundation plans to expand its efforts throughout Akron in the coming years by providing year-round programming. In addition, Akron Energy Systems and its employees also continue to collect donations for Saint Bernard's food pantry and provide Christmas toys to other community organizations.

In closing, I wanted to acknowledge two critical team members that are retiring this coming year:

Kelly Dodson, who currently serves as an account manager, has been a part of Akron's thermal energy sector for more than three decades. Kelly is a selfless public servant who has always advocated vigorously for our system's customers and the City of Akron. He is one of our most knowledgeable team members and a true professional. No one person exemplifies our commitment and care for Akron more than Kelly.

Paul Burns, metering technician, will conclude a 15-year career with Akron Energy Systems this year. Paul's conscientious approach to everything he does and tireless commitment to helping customers conserve energy is commendable. We will sorely miss his positive attitude and willingness to offer a helping hand wherever it is needed.

Thank you, Kelly and Paul, for your service.

We look forward to the year ahead as new opportunities arise for community energy and our investment in the great City we serve.

Sincerely,
Marc Divis, President, Akron Energy Systems



SYSTEM REPORT

OPERATIONS

The Akron Energy Systems Operations Department manages and maintains our community energy system, which provides centralized heating and cooling to customer buildings in downtown Akron's central business district.

The responsibilities of this department are to monitor and control the production and distribution of energy to customer buildings, optimize energy efficiency, minimize waste, and implement predictive maintenance strategies to avoid outages.

In 2024, our Systems Operations Department achieved various operational milestones. By producing over 641,000 Mlbs of steam, with a condensate return rate of 34%, Akron Energy Systems delivered over 481,000 mmbtus of heat and over 7.2 million tons of cooling. Notably, we accomplished all this with zero forced outages, a testament to our operational excellence.

Our condensate return has steadily increased over the past few years and remains a focal point for our team.

GALLONS OF WATER CONSERVED

2024 = 46,860,786

2023 = 43,285,246

2022 = 40,329,510

2021 = 39,374,160

The overall impact of these results is a more efficient, sustainable, and economical community energy system, as well as significant cost benefits for our customers.

ENGINEERING

Akron Energy Systems' Engineering Department is responsible for the design, planning, optimization, and technical management of Akron's community

energy system. The department had several noteworthy 2024 accomplishments as part of our commitment to continuous improvement, infrastructure upgrades, and expansions.

NEW CUSTOMER ADDED TO SYSTEM

Greystone, a historic building built by the Freemasons in 1917, became a significant addition to Akron's community energy system in 2024. The building, located at the corner of Mill and High Streets, is not only a stunning architectural marvel but also a key part of Akron's history and community.

Once it was determined the building's aging heating system needed to be replaced, Akron Energy Systems worked with the building owner, the City of Akron, the building manager, the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau, to design a solution. The project involved installing new steam supply lines from the systems High and Mill Street service branch lines into the building. Our engineering and mechanical teams designed, installed, and connected internal supply lines. We also added metering and auxiliary equipment to the building's heating supply system.

Community energy service to the Greystone commenced in late 2024.

STEAM TURBINE INSTALLED AT PLANT

Our technicians have been diligently working to connect a new 800 Kw steam turbine in our community energy plant. This state-of-the-art turbine, designed for power generation and cogeneration, will significantly enhance our energy production capabilities. By extracting useful energy from high-pressure steam and retaining heat in the lower-pressure steam for district heating, the turbine represents a major step towards maximizing our energy efficiency and reducing our environmental footprint.



CRITICAL SUPPORT

SAFETY, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL

Safety, health, and environmental programs are essential to Akron Energy Systems' success. They protect employees, reduce costs, ensure legal compliance, and enhance our reputation.

SAFETY

A safe and healthy workplace reduces injuries, illnesses, and stress, leading to higher morale and productivity. Akron Energy Systems' safety program includes policies and procedures, employee training and education, hazard identification and risk assessment, and emergency preparedness and response.

In 2024, the Department of Homeland Security performed a Vulnerability & Security Assessment at our community energy plant and issued three commendable observations. We also completed various safety training exercises including confined spaces, emergency response, trenching and excavation, mobile elevated platforms, heat stress, and forklift operations.

Our safety team also held informational sessions on workplace inclusivity and respect, as well as our Drug-Free Safety Program, and launched a Drone Safety Program, including FAA certification and licensing, in 2024.

2024 SAFETY GRANTS

BWC Safety Intervention Grant

\$32,000.00 for an electric articulated boom lift

BWC Substance Use Recovery Workplace Safety Program Grant

\$1,220.00 training rebates

BWC Wellness Grant

\$12,000.00 employee health & wellness program start-up

ENVIRONMENTAL

Akron Energy Systems Environmental program improves workflow, appropriately manages our environmental impact, and ensures our compliance with sustainability goals.

During 2024, this program completed a facility Life-Safety pipe and floor marking project, safely accomplished annual universal waste disposal, and achieved full compliance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations and permits. We also maintained a good standing rating with OHIO811-Ohio Utilities Protection Services (OUPS) and membership in the Northeast Ohio Water Environment Association (NEOWEA).

HEALTH

By prioritizing the health of our employees, Akron Energy Systems fosters teamwork, trust, and collaboration. This past year, we took additional measures to ensure a healthy and supportive work environment.

We purchased new Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to prepare for potential heart-related emergencies, completed annual audiometric testing to meet OSHA standards for harmful noise levels, and upgraded personal protective equipment for plant and field personnel.

Akron Energy Systems is also proud to have been awarded a gold medallion by HIRE Vets. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level veterans' employment award recognizing a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development.



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

A COMMITMENT TO GIVE BACK

At Akron Energy Systems, we invest in the power of our community through volunteer programs, charitable donations, and sponsorships. We are grateful that we had the opportunity to partner with so many organizations, events, and activities during 2024. Below are some of the highlights.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Akron Energy Systems the title sponsor for a forum hosted by Bounce Innovation HUB that highlighted innovative business development opportunities in the Akron area. The annual event offers assistance and networking opportunities to new businesses to foster advancements in the medical, transportation, and health/wellness industries.

We were honored to be the lead sponsor for Akron First Tee's 25th-anniversary dinner featuring keynote speaker Jim Tressel, former Ohio State football coach. This program empowers children and teenagers through the game of golf by teaching life skills that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience.

Akron Energy Systems also sponsored the State of the City address delivered by Mayor Shammass Malik, highlighting his administration's vision for the city.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In collaboration with the City of Akron's Joy Park Community Center and Zion Temple Baptist Church, Akron Energy Systems provided support for the third annual You Matter Block Party. This fun filled event, made possible thanks to many Akron area agencies, organizations, and companies, provided over 300 students with back-to-school backpacks, a delicious cookout, and exciting activities like the Bouncy House, an obstacle course, and First Tee of

Akron's chipping green. Activities supported by the Akron Public Library, First Tee of Akron, Akron Zoo, Akron Children's Museum and Akron Children's Hospital. A special thank you to Summit Racing for its generosity. Additional donations of school supplies were also provided to St. Mary's Elementary School.

MISTING STATIONS

For the past five years, Akron Energy Systems has set up our "Cool Zone" misting stations to support local events like the Akron Marathon, the All-American Soap Box Derby, Akron Pride Weekend Celebration, and the Summit County Health Department Baby Showers.

HOLIDAY GIFT AND FOOD DONATIONS

To bring holiday cheer to our community, Akron Energy Systems employees donated to support Saint Bernard's food pantry and our annual Christmas gift collection.

EDUCATION

Our investment in the community is intended to activate the potential, ability, and power of the residents of the City of Akron.

Akron Energy Systems understands how important education is to develop a thriving, engaged city. That is why we support curriculums within local schools and universities and professional development opportunities beyond the classroom.

We are proud of our continuing interactions with Akron Public Schools, The University of Akron, and local organizations that offer knowledge-building programs and initiatives.



222 Opportunity Parkway, Akron, OH 44307
330.374.0600 | AkronEnergySystems.com