

Lakeshore Foundation



The vision of the Lakeshore Foundation is clear: to improve the lives of people with physical disability around the world. With a vision like that, the facility must be up to par, always ready to meet the needs of its 2,000-plus membership.

Lakeshore Foundation is located on a 45-acre campus in Homewood, Ala. It opened in 2001 as one of the nation's premiere fitness, recreation and education facilities for people with physically disabling conditions.

Lakeshore offers a wide range of fitness, recreation, athletic and education programs to children and adults who experience diagnostic conditions including spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke, amputation and visual impairment. Lakeshore Foundation also serves persons who have been diagnosed with arthritis, diabetes, chronic pain, cardiac conditions and many other chronic health conditions.

Lakeshore's Challenge

One of the popular features at Lakeshore is the aquatic center. It includes a 200,000 gallon lap pool and a 90,000 gallon therapy pool. The therapy pool is kept at 93.5 degrees to accommodate classes that focus on pain management and range of motion. The larger lap pool is kept slightly cooler at 86 degrees to meet more cardiovascular needs in water aerobics classes as well as lap swimming and competitive athletics.

Maintaining those constant temperatures is absolutely critical for Lakeshore's training staff. A one-degree change in water temperature is equal to a seven-degree change in air temperature. Lakeshore's frequent swimmers could detect even the slightest change in water temperature. That's when the facility managers knew it was time to retire the existing electric equipment.

"The electric compressors were working constantly," said Tom Bradley, campus operations

coordinator. "Even with those compressors running around the clock, they still couldn't keep the temperatures up in the pools."

Alagasco's Solution

That's when Alagasco proposed four high-efficiency natural gas boilers to heat the swimming pools and ensure steady temperatures.

Lakeshore's new Patterson-Kelly boilers now sit on the roof and run at 1,350,000 Btu. Facility managers can determine how



Pictured above is an outdoor installation of high-efficiency condensing natural gas hot water boilers manufactured by Patterson-Kelly.

“Now that the new boilers have been installed and are running, I couldn’t be happier. The aquatic specialists and instructors tell me the swimmers are pleased, and that’s what matters. We could not have done this without Alagasco’s support.”

- Tom Bradley
campus operations coordinator

many of the four boilers should be working at any given time. The equipment is operating at more than a 90 percent efficiency rate and can maintain the temperatures in the two swimming pools within a mere .600 of a degree.

The boilers have a titanium plate heat exchanger that separates the pools’ chlorinated water from the clean boiler water.

Result

The new boilers were installed in September 2008. After four months of service, Bradley realized that the facility’s power bill would have increased by several thousand dollars had the facility not switched to gas.

The new equipment reduced carbon emissions at Lakeshore by 9.1 percent.

“This top of-the-line equipment allows Lakeshore Foundation to continue providing cutting edge technology and services

to our members,” Bradley said. “Now that the new boilers have been installed and are running, I couldn’t be happier. The aquatic specialists and instructors tell me the swimmers are pleased, and that’s what matters. We could not have done this without Alagasco’s support.”

High-efficiency natural gas equipment once again proved to be the best solution for another Alagasco customer. Lap after lap, the swimmers at Lakeshore will benefit from the soothing water temperatures thanks to clean-burning, energy-efficient natural gas.



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