

Alpha Baking Company, Inc.

# Fresh Baked Savings through the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Location:** Chicago, IL
- **Facility Size:** 120,000 sq ft
- **Retrofit Description:** Replacing (2) 60% efficiency boilers with (2) 85% efficiency boilers
- **Date Completed:** October 2010
- **Total Project Cost:** \$145,000
- **Payback Period:** 3 years 9 months
- **Total Rebate Amount:** \$7,629
- **Annual Energy Savings:** 46,559 therms

## PROJECT TEAM

- **Owner and Head Engineer:** Alpha Baking Company, Inc.
- **Contractor:** Advantage Mechanical Lombard, IL
- **Utility Incentives:** Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program



## THE BUSINESS

**Alpha Baking Company, Inc.** is an industrial bakery that manufactures a variety of bread products, including the poppy seed hot dog buns that make Chicago's hot dogs so famous. Since opening for business in 1979, Alpha Baking has operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Owner Larry Marcucci states, "Operating around the clock, Alpha Baking processes about 230 million pounds of dough a year between our four facilities; they aren't kidding when they say that the baking industry leaves little time for sleep!"



## THE DECISION

After hearing about the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program at a Greater Northwest Chicago Development Corporation (GNCDC) meeting, Marcucci and one of his corporate engineers, Nate Cottrell, thought about the two boilers that have been in need of replacement for the last several years. The company had received state crediting, which allowed them to begin looking at the boiler retrofit. "Finding out about the rebates available for qualifying units helped us make the decision to move forward with the project. We'll begin to realize savings that much sooner- it essentially made the upgrade a no-brainer!" said Cottrell.



## THE PROJECT

Alpha Baking's engineer, Nat Cottrell, conducted an analysis of Alpha Baking's utility bills for the past 12 months, showing 205,347 therms consumed. Of that, 77% was used to operate their boilers. In replacing the two 60% efficient boilers with two 85% efficient boilers, Alpha Baking estimates an annual energy savings of 46,559 therms, effectively saving over \$38,000 annually on their gas bill. By choosing high efficiency boilers rather than the minimum code-required models, Alpha Baking qualified for the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program rebate of \$7,629, in addition to their annual savings.



## THE EXPERIENCE

"From the moment we expressed interest, the Chicagoland Natural Gas Program staff have helped in guiding us through the process. They made applying for the rebate easy and they were there whenever we had any questions. There was not an extensive amount of paperwork or testing required so the time involved was manageable," says owner Larry Marcucci.

For more information about the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program visit:

**[www.chicagolandrebates.com](http://www.chicagolandrebates.com)**  
**or call: 866-964-7345.**



The Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program is funded by customers of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas through a line item on the bill called the Enhanced Efficiency Program. The Program is guided by Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, the Citizens Utility Board, the City of Chicago Department of Environment, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Illinois Attorney General's Office.