

# BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio Can Help With Energy Improvements

If your building is like most others, energy costs consume most of the operating budget. You pay for lighting and heating, as well as the fuel needed to run specialized equipment critical to your business. And if your building systems are a little older and your work processes are unstructured, you may be using only a fraction of the energy you pay for each month.

The good news is that is easier than ever to make changes to your facility that will increase the property value, increase its energy efficiency and save you money. This is because key technology and expertise are more affordable and easier to find thanks to a new program from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority: BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio.



## Toledo Zoo Hosts A Party For The Planet

The Toledo Zoo is dedicated to conservation in all its

Through BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio, owners of virtually every type of building are eligible for low-cost financing to pay for high-efficiency improvements to their facilities and building systems. The goal is to make cost-effective energy practices and technology more accessible to individuals, businesses and governmental entities across Northwest Ohio — while also helping transform the way whole communities use energy.

Eligible entities include:

- Industrial/Manufacturing
- Commercial/Retail
- Government/Municipal
- For-Profit/Not-For-Profit
- Educational/K-12; Colleges and Universities
- Healthcare
- Residential

Interested building owners can begin the process by calling the BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio office at 419-720-1102. Once eligibility for participation is established, an application is completed, which is followed by a building-wide energy audit. The audit is used to evaluate building energy usage and how to best execute sustainable energy improvements for cost savings.

After completion of the audit, the building owner determines improvements to implement and finally, the financing is secured.

BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio offers financing for projects that focus on conserving energy and generating savings through equipment retrofits to existing facilities. Virtually all energy systems and processes are eligible for upgrades:

An energy savings program was recently implemented for Toledo Jet, which operates a corporate aircraft maintenance facility at Toledo

Express. As part of the program, Toledo Jet was provided with the resources to make basic changes to its building systems and work processes that significantly reduced its energy use — and the cost of implementing the changes was offset by the energy savings.

Toledo Jet's 30-year-old airplane hangar and office space covers almost 39,000 square feet and provided an outstanding opportunity to showcase the benefits of tighter systems.

The building-wide assessment included on-site or "field measured" data, facility drawings and reviews of utility bills. Assessors also studied building work processes and took note of equipment using electric and/or natural gas, comparing all to industry best practices and new technologies available to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency and improve comfort and productivity.

After the initial evaluation of the building and its processes and equipment, a preliminary set of energy conservation measures were identified and those that offered a energy savings greater than 10% were included in a final energy retrofit, including new HVAC equipment and lighting fixtures. The total project energy savings exceeded 25%.

If you are a building owner and would like to benefit from financing improvements for similar energy savings, you can find out more about the BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio program at [www.toledoportauthority.org/bbnwo](http://www.toledoportauthority.org/bbnwo).

Financing for BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio is available thanks to a \$15 million start-up grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The funding was issued in 2010 as part of the Retrofit Ramp-Up project, part of the \$80 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

BetterBuildings Northwest Ohio is just one of 25 programs across the nation chosen for participation. ■