

TAP SUCCESS STORIES

Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Program The Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, Ind.

“Utility costs may never go down ever again, so if the Indianapolis Zoo can keep its energy consumption at current levels over the next five or 10 years, we’ll be making incredible strides in our mission as a leader in conservation and as a standard — a model of sustainability for zoos in the Midwest and throughout the nation. Purdue TAP has been a very good resource to help the Indianapolis Zoo reduce its energy consumption as we continue efforts to empower people, resources, and communities locally and globally to advance animal conservation.”

— Mike Teague,
Director of Facilities, The Indianapolis Zoo



Purdue’s Technical Assistance Program (TAP) offers services to companies and organizations, like the Indianapolis Zoo, who wish to apply sustainable practices and energy conservation assessment and remain competitive in a global environment. These services help companies improve processes and develop energy management practices through workshops, on-site training, awareness events, and implementation in projects. Annual cost savings from EES assessments conducted at Indiana manufacturers and organizations were projected at \$1.12 million alone in 2009, equivalent to heating 1,020 homes for a year.

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Mike Teague, Director of Facilities, is championing efforts to contain and even reduce energy consumption at the Indianapolis Zoo.

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A longtime industry leader in conservation, the Indianapolis Zoo collaborated with Purdue University's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) on a detailed energy and sustainability assessment through its Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (EES) Program.

The zoo spends \$1.6 million a year, or 8 percent of its \$20 million annual budget, on utilities to power 40 separate campus buildings and maintain habitats for hundreds of animals. Working with zoo officials Mike Teague, Director of Facilities, and Mike Sanderson, Energy Manager, the project focused on the Dolphin, Oceans, and White River Gardens exhibits.

Examining electricity, natural gas, water/wastewater usage and overall sustainability, the Purdue TAP team provided a two-pronged recommendation for controlling and reducing energy costs, several of which have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented:

- An immediate capital investment of \$120,840 in energy-related enhancements that will generate \$92,074 annually in utility cost savings, resulting in a collective payback of 1.3 years. That alone is 5.75 percent of the zoo's annual utility expenses.
- Investing \$644,710 in immediate and long-term, energy-related enhancements that will return \$214,451 annually in utility cost savings, resulting in a collective payback in just three years.

TAP's Energy Efficiency and Sustainability programs are supported by the Indiana Office of Energy Development.

— Purdue's Technical Assistance Program
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