

## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



# Houston City College

## Modernizing Buildings, Improving Operational Efficiency

Across 19 campuses, Houston City College offers a high-quality, affordable education for academic advancement, workforce training, career development, and lifelong learning, with the goal of preparing diverse communities for life and work in modern society.



### SOLUTIONS

- Interior and exterior lighting upgrades
- New building-management control systems
- Air-handling system upgrades and replacements, including occupancy sensors
- Water conservation measures across facilities
- New central plant featuring combined heat and power (CHP)



### BENEFITS

**\$11 million +**

in savings guaranteed over 15 years

**Lower  
maintenance  
costs**

via more efficient operations

**30,155**

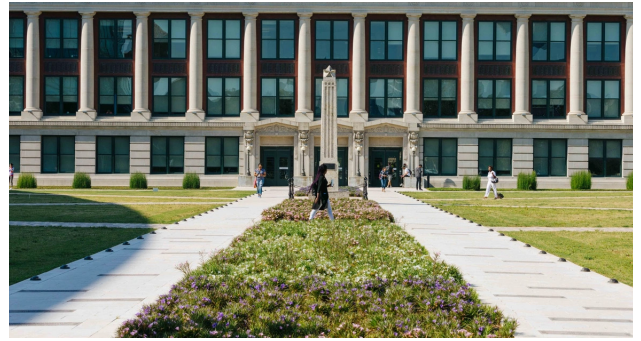
metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> eliminated

**Enhanced safety**

and comfort due to indoor and outdoor lighting improvements

## Needs Assessment Comes First

Houston City College (HCC) engaged OPTERRA to conduct a comprehensive energy assessment of facilities across its campuses to identify efficiency and process improvements that would help the HCC district make progress toward its goal of eliminating carbon emissions.



## Broad Efficiency Initiative

HCC and OPTERRA embarked on a journey to modernize 29 buildings with improved indoor and outdoor lighting, upgraded air handling systems, water conservation measures, and new building-management control systems.

The overall improvements are **saving HCC approximately \$600,000 annually**, in addition to incentives the college received for its various energy-saving measures.

## Reducing Financial Risk

Unlike many capital improvement projects, the large-scale HCC program was nearly free from financial risk. OPTERRA's performance contract guaranteed that the initiative would save the college system more than \$11 million, integrating financial incentives offered by the local utility with the energy-cost savings of higher-efficiency systems.



## Building Sustainable Operations

Through the comprehensive approach of stakeholder engagement and more efficient design, HCC has reported cumulative greenhouse gas reductions of 30,155 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This supports the college system's progress toward broader sustainability objectives, enhancing the overall impact of modernizing campus facilities.