OSU’s energy efficiency efforts result in a rebate of $288,069 from OG&E for peak demand kWh reduction.

OSU and OG&E are Positive Energy Together® partners, working together to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency practices throughout the OSU Stillwater Campus. Their most notable collaboration resulted in dedication of the OSU Cowboy Wind Farm, near Blackwell, OK, in February 2013, and recently with OG&E making its largest ever energy efficiency rebate. The rebate reflects OSU’s reduced power demand due to replacement of two older chiller units in the University’s West Chilled Water Plant with upgraded, energy efficient chillers. The Plant supplies Campus with chilled water for air conditioning.

According to James Rosner, P.E., Director, OSU Utilities and Energy Management Department, the chiller replacement project increased the Plant’s efficiency by 20 percent with OSU’s projected annual cost savings to be about $450,000. Annual power savings for OG&E are expected to be more than 10 million kWh of energy, which helps reduce annual demand on OG&E’s system by 1,100 kW of generated power.

“Through our wind power and energy efficiency efforts, OSU and OG&E are partners in leading our state in sustainable business practices. Our wind and energy efficiency efforts help reduce costs at the University and reduce carbon emissions,” said Jesse Langston, Vice President, Retail Energy for OG&E. “This particular OSU initiative accounts for approximately 12 percent of OG&E’s annual energy demand goals and supports our efforts in meeting our goal to avoid building additional fossil-fueled generation plants until the year 2020.”

“OSU’s purchase of wind power represents the end of an era with the 1940s Central Power Plant going out and renewable energy coming in,” Rosner said. “Our partnership with OG&E is integral in helping us reach our sustainability goals.”

As a result of switching to the use of wind generated power from the Cowboy Wind Farm, OSU now ranks sixth in the EPA Green Power Partnership’s Top 20 College and University rankings, and second in the Big 12 Collegiate Athletic Conference’s green power rankings.