

# Large Commercial case study



MCNEESE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**\$150,000**  
in incentives

Estimated  
**1,570,000 kWh**  
saved annually

Estimated  
**\$90,432**  
saved annually



## McNeese State University — Lake Charles, LA

**Project summary:** McNeese State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Its mission is to provide quality education to its students and offer services to the community and regional employers. Trade ally contractor, Trane, analyzed the operating conditions of the chiller plant and proposed a chiller plant optimization project to reduce the campus's energy consumption.

**Challenge:** The chilled water plant suffered from excessive pumping and outdated control procedures in the chiller plant. This inefficiency was evident as the former plant operated at a suboptimal 0.9-1.0 kW/ton, below industry standards for energy efficiency.

**The Entergy solution:** Variable frequency drives (VFDs) were added to the motors driving the primary, secondary and condenser water pumps, as well as the cooling tower fans. These additions paired with more sophisticated control sequences yielded a new plant efficiency of 0.7 to 0.8 kW/ton. As the motors worked less, energy consumption decreased. These savings represented a total reduction of 20-30% in plant energy usage (kWh), based on the area's weather data.

"At McNeese State University, we are committed to advancing sustainability, efficiency and fiscal responsibility while maintaining a high-quality learning environment for our students. The Central Chilled Water Plant Optimization project, in partnership with Entergy and Trane, represents a significant step toward reducing our energy footprint and operating costs. By improving the efficiency of our chiller plant, we are not only enhancing campus operations but also reinforcing our role as a responsible steward of resources. The projected savings of up to \$90,000 annually underscore the importance of strategic investments in infrastructure that benefit both the university and the community. This initiative reflects our ongoing dedication to innovation and operational excellence at McNeese."

**Dr. Wade Rousse, President, McNeese State University**

### About Entergy Solutions

Entergy Solutions is a program that gives incentives to Entergy Louisiana customers to perform energy-saving upgrades in their facilities. The program offers many ways to decrease energy use and save on expenses while maintaining a modern, safe operation.

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