

Energy Conservation at Work at Garfield County Library

Outline of Need:

Garfield County is located in North Central Nebraska with a rural population of 1,902. The county seat is located in Burwell where the current Garfield County Library was originally built in 1962 and functioned as a church. The heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system consisted of three forced air furnaces and a used swamp cooler. The swamp cooler drained into the neighboring lot which was currently under construction with new housing. The second half of the building was added in 1973. This portion of the building had two forced air furnaces and a window air conditioner. At some point another window air conditioner was added to the original portion of the building. In 2000, this facility was purchased by Garfield County with the intentions of renovating for use as a public library. A local non-profit, Friends of the Library, was successful in obtaining donations to cover the majority of remodeling expenses with the exclusion of the HVAC system. The furnaces were no longer efficient and had become costly to repair and operate.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development funds were received in February of 2011 to replace the old heating and cooling units with a more efficient HVAC system. This would include three new 13 SEER air conditioners and heat pumps (with back up heaters). A two and one-half ton heat pump with 10 kilowatt (KW) backup heat was installed in the South end of the building. A five ton heat pump with five (KW) backup heat was installed in the mid-section and a three and one-half ton heat pump with 15 KW backup heat was installed in the North end. The manufacturer offers a 10 year warranty on all parts and the compressor. If the compressor fails, the manufacturer sends out a whole new unit.

The Results:

The new efficient HVAC provides for a safer and greater energy efficiency system and will help the overall budget of the Library.



In honor of Earth Day State Director Maxine Moul presented a certificate to The Garfield County Library for their energy savings project.