

Big Picture Thinking. Practical Approach. Sustainable Design.

NU Norris Center

Project Highlights and Results

- Innovative approach saved \$167,000 as existing system components were reused to make this conversion highly cost effective.
- \$300,000 in annual energy cost savings achieved with project payback in less than three years.

Project Background

Owner: Northwestern University (NU)

Location: Evanston, IL

Team/Team Lead: Don McLauchlan, Caitlin Levitsky

Elara Role: ME Engineering Design

Type: Energy Retrofit

Construction Cost: \$733,000

Project Overview

Building Type: Higher Education

Building Attributes: Student Center, 160,000 SF

Initial Construction: 1971

MEPFPIT Systems: Dual Duct/VAV, DCV

Innovation

- The following identifies the challenges represented by the energy intensive and highly variable needs of the building's major spaces:
 - Elara determined that the existing perimeter heating was sufficient to heat the building and that the hot duct in the existing dual duct system was not needed for heating.
 - As a result, (1) the hot duct was converted into another parallel cold duct, (2) the existing volume regulators in the dual duct boxes were removed and replaced with opposed blade VAV dampers, and (3) the old dual duct dampers and heating coils in the air handlers were removed allowing for the reuse of a majority of the existing system and components.



