

RICHARDSON LIBRARY

Impact at a Glance

- **20% energy reduction** from baseline achieved in 2016
- Occupants reported improved **air quality**, **comfort**, better **acoustics**, and improved **user control**
- **25.8% reduction of carbon emissions** in 2022 compared to 2011 (data via ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager)

Building Stats

- **Year Built:** 1992
- **Neighborhood:** Lincoln Park
- **Architect:** Lohan Associates
- **Use:** Higher Education
- **Square Footage:** 187,708

The John T. Richardson Library gives students at DePaul University a unique space to gather and study within Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Opened in 1992, this four-story library provides 1,100 study seats, three study lounges, seven group study rooms, six instruction rooms, a computer lab, a conference room, and numerous special collections. The library was named after DePaul's ninth president, Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M., in 1993.

Some unique challenges the Richardson Library faced were ensuring adequate lighting levels for religious displays and maintaining the climate for rare book storage.

The Richardson Library joined Retrofit Chicago in 2014 and achieved their 20% energy reduction goal in 2016. DePaul joined as part of the Alliance to Retrofit Chicago Higher Education (ARCH). They found value in gathering like-minded institutions and recognition and assistance from external parties.

Spotlight on Energy Efficiency Investments



- Installed variable frequency drives on two air handling units and six exhaust fans
- Upgrading lamps and ballasts on 4,600 light fixtures
- Gas boiler & burner upgrades
- Upgrade to outdoor air damper system



In addition to its energy efficiency retrofits, DePaul also installed rooftop solar arrays on other university buildings and purchases renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset consumption.

One of the goals DePaul had as it increased its footprint was to mitigate the increase in energy usage. In addition to purchasing renewable energy credits, the approach taken in the Richardson Library was to plan for more energy efficient equipment when it came time for the replacement of aging equipment.

The library's high ceilings and stained glass displays required an abundance of lighting fixtures to ensure the proper level of illumination within the space.

Through their efforts, the DePaul team learned that there is value in taking a holistic approach to building retrofits. Tackling energy efficiency up front allows you to appropriately size the larger equipment, saving additional energy and cost.

Retrofitting doesn't have to be complicated. Simple upgrades such as replacing equipment with more efficient models once it reaches end of life makes sense. Often, utilities offer incentives for the more efficient products.

About Retrofit Chicago

The Retrofit Chicago Energy Challenge encourages, promotes, and celebrates voluntary energy efficiency leadership. Together, participating building owners, facility managers, engineers, and policymakers are demonstrating that energy efficiency is a winning proposition for Chicago's real estate industry as well as the environment.



The Key to Success for the Richardson Library

“ We saved almost **30%** by **being thoughtful** during recapitalization.”

Craig Schuttenberg
CEO, Carbonless Community



Retrofit as you go:

The Richardson Library did not use an outside consultant for retrofit work. Rather, they had a contractor come in to make upgrades as needed.