

Beautiful art created with an efficient partnership

A PSE case study featuring Tacoma Museum of Glass

Most nonprofit organizations know that dollars for capital improvement projects are difficult to raise — and that meeting fundraising goals can take years. So when Museum of Glass (MOG) in Tacoma discovered that we could offer a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) custom grant to significantly offset the cost of purchasing a new tank furnace for melting glass in their hot shop, the excitement was real. It meant that 40 percent of the cost of the new furnace would be covered by our grant, which made the project feasible for the nonprofit museum.

Installation of the new furnace was completed in July 2021. It reduces the museum's natural gas usage by about 4,200 therms per year. That's because the new furnace, a 1,000-pound-capacity Day Tank made by Seattle-based Spiral Arts, replaced an inefficient, 13-year-old tank furnace. The new furnace brought another benefit, too. The interior brick lining of the old furnace had a fissure, which exposed hot glass to pieces of debris, risking the artwork of both visiting artists and the items made by MOG's hot shop team. That concern is now gone.

With the museum's reduced natural gas usage, they'll save about \$2,000 each year on their energy bill. That money will support the museum's renowned K-12 education and veteran-support programs, which serve more than 8,000 Kindergarten through college students and 96 soldiers and veterans annually.

The museum is also a destination as the West Coast's largest and most active museum glass hot shop and amphitheater. Annually, MOG hosts more than 110,000 visitors who enjoy touring the museum galleries and watching MOG's visiting artists, who guest work in the hot shop from all over the globe.

Given MOG's nonprofit status, community impact and destination reputation, it's crystal clear how critical an efficient, clean-burning tank furnace is in their hot shop. With the help of our incentive, the replacement of the old furnace came much sooner than would otherwise have been possible.

Project numbers

4,236: annual therm savings

\$2,076: annual energy savings

40%: portion of project cost covered by PSE incentive



Photos Courtesy of Museum of Glass

PSE offers incentives for projects that produce verifiable energy savings of PSE-supplied electricity or natural gas. For more information, contact an Energy Advisor at pse.com/energyadvisor or 1-800-562-1482.

“PSE's grant made this new furnace happen for us. Almost immediately our fuel usage was reduced by 25 percent, and we expect this savings to grow with increased usage of the furnace.”

– Deborah Lenk
Executive Director,
Museum of Glass

pse.com/customgrants

