

## CASE STUDY

### CUSTOMER

Horween Leather Company, Chicago

### PROJECTS

- Steam Boiler Replacement with High-Efficiency Burner
- Boiler Heat Recovery

### TOTAL REBATE AMOUNT

\$160,418

### ENERGY SAVINGS

123,095 therms

### CUSTOMER BACKGROUND

Horween Leather Company opened its doors at the corner of Elston and Ashland avenues in the North River Industrial Corridor in 1905. Since then, the family-owned and operated business has hand-tanned leather for high-end retail brands. Today, Horween is the last remaining tannery in Chicago and supplies some of the finest leather to companies such as Wilson Sporting Goods, Timberland Boot Company and Allen Edmonds.





## Project Description

Over the past century, Horween Leather Company has significantly expanded its business. To continue growing, the company focused on reducing its energy use and operating costs. Horween decided to upgrade its entire steam generation system by replacing three boilers—two of which were brick boilers from 1918—with one new, highly efficient boiler and burner. The project also included a heat recovery component for combustion air and boiler blowdown, while reducing the steam venting from the deaerator tank.

The new system provides the steam used in the tannery process as well as steam used for space heating. By replacing three inefficient boilers with a single high-efficiency boiler, Horween also significantly reduced its maintenance costs.

## Project Team

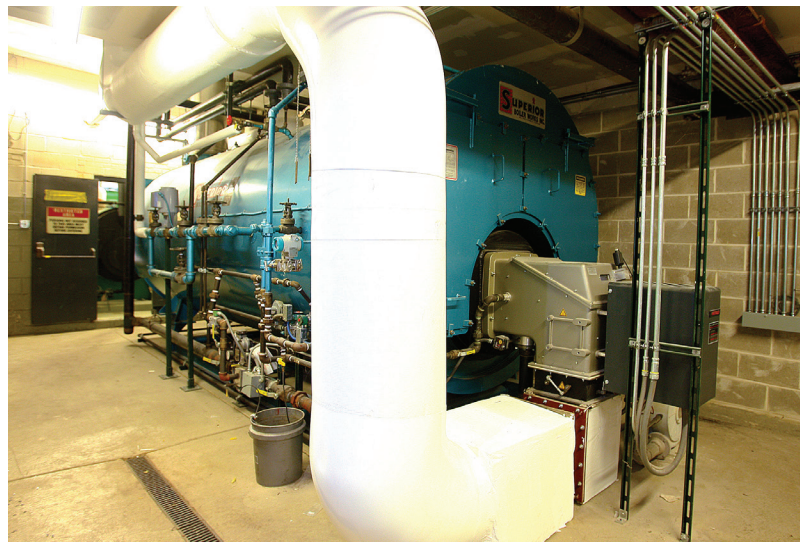
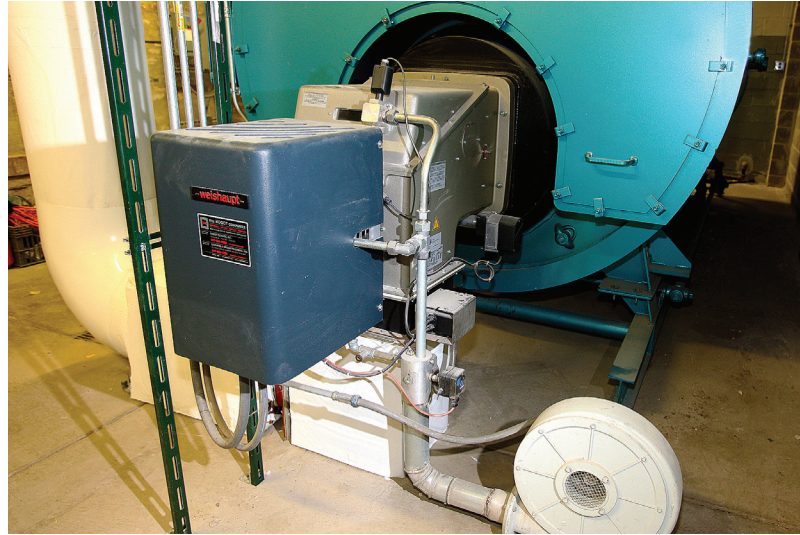
- David Neufeldt, Plant Engineer, Horween Leather Company
- Scott Bogot, Bogot Service Co., Inc.
- Leon Dorsey, Account Executive, Peoples Gas
- Paul Sobiski, Energy Engineer, Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program

## Impact

In recent years, the BLC Leather Technology Centre, an international leatherworking group, has set standards among tanneries for environmental stewardship, energy use and product quality. Many leather goods manufacturers and retailers now require their suppliers to adhere to the BLC standards to gain any new business. With the rising cost of energy and toughening standards, Horween knew it needed to reduce its carbon footprint to grow its business with big-name customers.

"We could've continued our existing level of business with our customers. But if we wanted to expand we knew we had to make some system improvements," said David Neufeldt, plant engineer at Horween. "We would not have been able to complete this project without program funding, and as a result would not have been able to expand our business."

**The Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Program team is available to help you capture similar savings at your business. Call 855-849-8928 to schedule a facility assessment with one of our energy experts.**



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