

# HEAT & FROST INSULATORS

building an energy efficient world

As we all know, the current state of our economy is shaky at best. The rising cost of everything from gas to milk to electricity has forced the public to reassess budgets and prioritize spending. This is no different for business owners, facility managers, architects and those who work in the construction industry. Everyone is looking for smart and innovative ways to cut costs while maximizing efficiency.

For more than 100 years, the men and women of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators – Local 17 have worked on the front line of building a more energy efficient world. Today, our work is more relevant and important than ever.

When installed professionally, mechanical insulation is a vital resource that protects a facility from energy loss and physical damage. It is a basic enhancement with far reaching results and the only item in a building that starts to pay for itself immediately.

For example, insulating a single six-inch steam valve with two inches of insulation can save 49 million BTUs of heat loss and 7,600 lbs. of CO2 emissions. This translates into \$600 in total energy saving in just one year. On the other hand,

insufficient and poorly installed insulation around heating and cooling systems is by far the leading cost of lost energy in commercial and industrial construction. As heating and cooling rates continue to rise, it is important to note how much this “lost” energy affects your pocketbook.

In addition to saving money and energy, properly installed mechanical insulation also cuts the emissions of greenhouse gases. Local 17 and the affiliated contractors of the Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors Association are vital allies in the “green building” movement. Recent studies show that green buildings use an average of 36 percent less energy than conventional buildings. Insulation is a key element in maximizing energy efficiency and should be the first consideration in green building.

One way to see first-hand the difference proper insulation can make to your pocketbook and the environment is to schedule an insulation energy appraisal. A Local 17 professional can visit your facility to assess the state of your insulation and calculate how much energy you may be losing.

For more information on how to schedule an insulation energy appraisal of your facility, or to find out more about Local 17 and the important role we play in energy efficiency, please visit [www.local17insulators.com](http://www.local17insulators.com).

Our members have worked on more jobs and have received more training than anyone else in the field, and it shows in our work and dedication. As we celebrate Labor Day and remember the generations of brothers and sisters who paved the way for us, we are proud to be part of forward thinking, innovative solutions to problems that affect us all.

