Panoptix Solutions at WKU

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WKU is using cool apps to uncover hidden energy savings.

As Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill, the university is making the most of every investment in sustainability.

When it comes to saving energy, BIG DATA can make a BIG DIFFERENCE. That’s why WKU is tapping into new technology that turns real time data into cold, hard cash.

Did you know the amount of electricity consumed on campus in a recent week would cook 23 million pieces of toast?

That’s why sustainability is so important and why WKU has made it a priorty.

“Western Kentucky University decided years ago that we were very committed to sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.”

The energy savings just keep mounting thanks to the latest cutting edge technology offered by WKU’s longtime energy partner Johnson Controls.

“In the first 120 days since installing Panoptix, we have identified and corrected air side faults in our HVAC system that has associated value of 200-thousand dollars.”

The Panoptix Solution software was added to 22 buildings on campus last December. It brings in highly detailed real-time data highlighting inefficiencies around the clock.

“It alerts us to that fact and we have someone immediately correct it rather than just stumbling on to the problem months or years after it actually happened.”

So far big savings have been found at Smith Stadium and Mass Media and Technology Hall.

In a few weeks, eighteen more buildings will be outfitted with Panoptix.

“As I’ve said many times, you can not manage what you can not measure and Panoptix allows us to measure and manage our utilities in a very efficient and effective way.”

The data is stored on the cloud, a remote server operated by Johnson Controls in Milwaukee.

But it can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

“By clicking into any one of these apps, whether it’s a smart phone or a laptop, it actually takes you into that module into Panoptix so we can do, we’re not tied to the desk, we can pick it up wherever.”

Tracking trends, charting energy use and monitoring equipment for faults is as easy as the click of a mouse.

“It’s a great piece of software for a very tech savy age and the better technology we can get, the more efficient we can get with our energy use.”

WKU is currently operating with the same utility budget as it was two years ago thanks to sustainability investments like the one with Panoptix.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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