WKU Natural Gas Boilers

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Winter’s cold temperatures are right around the corner and WKU is ready.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us how the campus will stay warm in a much more efficient way this winter.

Energy saving measures taken at WKU over the past few years are now paying off big time. The savings have been reinvested in upgrades to the WKU Central Heating Plant.

It’s coming. The snow and cold temperatures will transform WKU into a winter wonderland. But for the first time since 1927, coal will not be used for main campus heating.

 “I think we are the first state university that’s gone completely to natural gas.”

The Central Heating Plant has been upgraded with the addition of not one, but two natural gas boilers.

It was quite an ordeal getting them installed.

 “The windows were removed and a crane sort of swung it in through the windows.”

Sustainability Coordinator Christian Ryan Downing says the coal boilers will sit idle this winter while the natural gas boilers provide all the heat.

 “It’s much more efficient, it burns a cleaner fuel, it releases fewer emissions so it reduces our carbon footprint and allows us to heat the campus much more economically.”

And best of all, the more than two million dollar investment was paid for in energy savings.

 “Both of the projects in their entirety have been funded by unspent utility money that was budgeted in the utility budge”

 “Not just students but the entire campus community playing a role in being conservative, turning off computers, unplugging electronics, they have made a difference.”

Students and faculty were invited to tour the Central Heat Plant as part of Campus Sustainability Day yesterday. WKU Green Tour signs have also been placed around campus pointing out a variety of sustainable features.

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

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