

## By the Numbers

191,000 BTUs/hr

20,000 square feet

1 Okofen PES-56 pellet boiler

119-gallon hydraulic separator

9-ton pellet storage bin

20 tons of pellets/year

\$267/ton of pellets

\$10,000/year fuel savings

\$63,000 total project costs

## Department of Conservation and Recreation Western Regional Offices

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Western Regional offices are located on South Mountain in Pittsfield. The 20,000-square foot building houses the forestry and parks staff who manage DCR's properties in the Berkshire region, as well as a visitor's center and meeting room.

In 2014, DCR added a new wood pellet heating system and related equipment. Pellets are stored in the basement in a 9-ton fabric storage bin. The pellets are blown into the storage bin from delivery trucks through piping to the outside and are fed into the boiler by vacuum. A 119-gallon hydraulic separator serves as a thermal buffer.

The overall cost of the installation was \$63,000. The old oil boiler is rarely used as a back-up heat source. Since the installation, new system pumps and an electronic control system have been added. In the summer when the boiler is offline, an electric heater is used for hot water needs.

Fuel consumption for the pellet system has been about 20-tons per year at a price of \$267 per ton. The system saves DCR about \$10,000 each year in fuel costs. The installation and pellet delivery is done by Sandri Companies of Greenfield. Maintenance includes weekly ash disposal and regular servicing.

