

By the Numbers

1.94 million BTUs/hr

200,000 square feet

22 building campus

1 Burnham boiler

1 SolaGen HDF-WF 397 pellet system

36-ton pellet silo

350 tons of pellets/year

\$800,000 in grants

Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Arts (MASS MoCA)

After Sprague Electric Company vacated its sprawling factory complex, community leaders feared the signature property would decay and eventually need to be torn down. Instead, a commercial and artistic redevelopment occurred.

MASS MoCA is now a premier collection of contemporary art. In the complex of converted 19th century factory buildings, the museum uses the large interior spaces to showcase all forms of art and boundary-crossing works that defy classification. Other tenants, including law offices, restaurants, and a brewery, contribute to the commercial revitalization of the complex.

When Sprague operated the complex, it had coal, oil, and natural gas fired boilers to generate heat for the factory. In 2012, MASS MoCA installed a modern industrial boiler fueled by wood pellets to supplement the natural gas heating system. The new system helps MASS MoCA diversify its energy supply and reduce heating and energy costs. When operating at maximum capacity, the pellet boiler can heat the entire complex in the fall and spring shoulder seasons and provide 25% of the heat needed during the coldest periods.

Working with Biomass Commodities Corporation of Williamstown, MASS MoCA installed a Burnham boiler with a SolaGen pellet system. The automatically fired system can burn as much as 2.5 tons of pellets per day. The wood pellets are supplied by New England Wood Pellet and are delivered to the 36-ton silo, which was formerly used to store coal ash.

MASS MoCA received \$800,000 in federal and state grants, which covered most of the total project costs.

