

# Sofitel's Continued Commitment to Energy Reduction

In an effort to reduce energy consumption and operation costs, Sofitel Philadelphia converted its heating source from purchased steam to natural gas and is projected to save more than \$220,000 annually. "It's a win-win proposition," said Raed Shuwayhat, Director of Engineering, "so we made it happen!"

Driven by the strategic vision of the Sofitel's parent company, Accor Hotels, Shuwayhat considered the mandate to embrace sustainable practices and reduce annual energy consumption.

Shuwayhat assessed his energy options and chose natural gas as his preferred energy solution. With assistance from the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), Shuwayhat approved an on-site natural gas fired boiler plant to maximize energy efficiency, replacing the purchased steam system. The project was fully funded by Pebblebrook Hotel Trust, owners of the Sofitel facility. The project's payback period is approximately five years based on annual energy savings of \$220,000.

Converting to natural gas provided immediate payback. Sofitel can now control its energy production and accurately project its annual energy budget because the hotel will no longer have to pay monthly demand charges for purchased steam. PGW does not impose a demand charge on its customers' bills.



*"It's a win-win proposition ... so we made it happen."*

**– Raed Shuwayhat**  
Director of Engineering,  
Sofitel Philadelphia

*Sofitel Philadelphia Front Desk and Lobby Space.*

Additionally, Sofitel will lock-in their natural gas commodity price for an extended period via a third party supplier, thus providing budget stability.

Sofitel's exit from the steam loop means it will no longer dump condensate into the city's sewer system, because the steam company doesn't have a condensate return system. With its new natural gas on-site plant, Pebblebrook Hotel Trust was pleased to affirm that this project has increased the value of their asset and it meets the foundations of its strategic vision.



Exterior of the Sofitel Philadelphia located at 17th & Sansom Streets in Center City Philadelphia.

## ABOUT SOFITEL PHILADELPHIA

*Sofitel Philadelphia blends French elegance with American style providing a refined environment for upscale business and leisure travel in the city center just minutes from historic attractions. The 290,000 square foot hotel boasts 306 guest rooms, two floors of banquet space and two dining facilities.*



Three natural gas fired dual fuel boilers and one high efficiency boiler.