



Small Business & Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program

Success Story: A More Comfortable & Efficient Space for Young Writers

Customer
826NYC

Participating Contractor
Breffni Mechanical, Inc

Location
Brooklyn, NY



826NYC, Brooklyn, NYC

Overview

For more than 20 years, 826NYC has been a creative home for young New Yorkers. Hidden behind the whimsical storefront of The Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co. in Park Slope, Brooklyn, the nonprofit offers free and low-cost creative writing programs to more than 3,500 students, helping them find their voices, build confidence, and express themselves.

While the programs thrived, the space struggled. The original 21-year-old HVAC system had become noisy, inefficient, and unreliable. "We had to get the space really warm first thing in the morning for the students," recalls Chris Eckert, a longtime team member. The old unit roared and interrupted classes, and staff worried about both safety and high costs. "We'd been talking about replacing the system for two years, but the cost was a barrier," says Eckert.

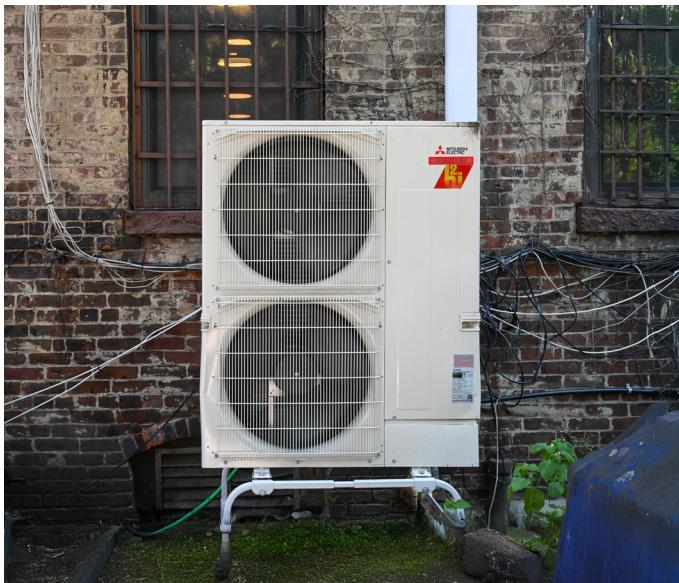
That changed with **Con Edisons' Small Biz Energy Efficiency Program**. 826NYC received **\$10,000 in incentives**, which cut project costs nearly in half, making the upgrade possible with help from donors. Working with **Breffni Mechanical, Inc**, they installed a new air-source heat pump and smart thermostats, giving staff remote temperature control and removing anxiety about overheated or freezing classrooms after weekends or holidays.

The results were immediate: quiet and comfortable classrooms where students could focus without disruption. "It's almost invisible, but it changes everything," Eckert explains. "Our team doesn't have to budget extra time just to make the space usable. They can focus on teaching."

For 826NYC, the project was about more than infrastructure—it was about sustaining a safe, inspiring place for young people to learn. It also supports long-term sustainability goals and environmental impact. The freed-up funds can help expand programs, buy more materials, support artists, and reach more students.

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Energy-Efficient Upgrades

- Air-Source Heat Pump

Highlights

Total Project Cost:	Con Edison Incentive:
\$24,750	\$10,000
Customer Copay:	Annual Electric Bill Savings (kWh):
\$14,750	4,281

Annual Gas Savings (therms):

674

Testimonial

“Without Con Edison’s incentives, we couldn’t have done it at all. This project has made a real difference for our staff, our volunteers, and—most importantly—our students.”

— Chris Eckert, 826NYC

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