Like most large hospitals, Pennsylvania’s Milton S. Hershey Medical Center (HMC) uses a significant amount of water and energy to provide their patients with exceptional health and safety standards. This 2 million square foot complex was utilizing about 365,000 Mlb/year of steam for various mechanical and heating purposes. With this amount of usage, even the slightest system inefficiency can lead to significant losses. Johnson Controls partnered with water efficiency experts, Water Management, Inc., (WMI) to perform a steam trap audit, potential savings analysis, and develop a steam trap replacement program to enhance the efficiency of the steam network.

Upon completion of an investment grade audit, WMI concluded that on average, 20% of the steam traps were malfunctioning. This meant that 629 steam traps in the facility would benefit from the steam trap replacement program. Additionally, 39 locations were found where new atmospheric vacuum breakers should be installed since the existing air handlers had either old atmospheric vacuum breakers, thermostatic traps, or check valves installed backwards and were being used as vacuum breakers.

These measures saved the Medical Center over $230,000 annually and had a payback of just over 2 years.