



COPIX[®]

PROJECT PROFILE



University of Oklahoma

Long-term operating and maintenance agreement.

CORIX Utilities was chosen by the University of Oklahoma (OU) to operate, maintain and manage its multi-utility infrastructure and strategically renew and replace portions or components of the utility systems. The 50-year utility services agreement enables OU to focus its resources on its core mission - providing a superior educational environment - while also committing to delivering several key benefits, including anticipated life cycle savings, access to an alternative source of long-term capital, and the opportunity to achieve a smaller environmental footprint.

A COMMON CHALLENGE, A PROGRESSIVE SOLUTION

The University of Oklahoma is a comprehensive, public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. Known for its academic excellence and strong sense of community, OU's mission is to "provide the best possible educational experience for its students." Additionally, as a member of the President's Council on Sustainability, OU is committed to incorporating key principles of environmental sustainability into campus life.

Charged with maximizing finite resources, and burdened with aging and inefficient utility infrastructure, OU's Board of Regents solicited bids for the management, operation, maintenance, renewal and reconstruction of its multi-utility system. Only one candidate - CORIX - submitted a proposal that addressed the needs of OU's six different utility systems while agreeing to retain the University's utility system employees at comparable wages and benefits.

Careful analysis

To begin, CORIX undertook a comprehensive needs analysis, working closely with OU to understand the full scope of its objectives and challenges. Central to the task was preparing a long-term master capital plan for the upgrade of the existing infrastructure.

Seamless transition

To ensure a successful changeover, CORIX needed to carefully monitor every element of the transition, a demanding, multi-faceted process that required transferring responsibility for the utility infrastructure - including its associated personnel, IT, financial and operational support systems - from OU to CORIX.





To help manage the successful changeover, CORIX placed a senior transition manager on-site, starting six months in advance of the agreement's closing date. We also tapped into our deep knowledge base, leveraging expertise and soliciting advice from across our operations. Our communications team, for example, provided essential support, effectively disseminating critical information, clarifying complex issues and easing the transfer of utility employees.

The end result? In August 2010, all key components of the utility infrastructure were successfully transferred to CORIX's custody, with 95% employee retention, no employee downtime, no loss of service, and no customer inconvenience logged.

Building a better future

Now in charge of OU's utility infrastructure, CORIX is currently conducting a detailed assessment of the utility systems to establish future goals and expenditures. Initial work is expected to focus on optimizing and improving the reliability of the existing assets, with long-term initiatives directed at improving efficiencies and reducing the University's environmental footprint.

As a relatively small, self-contained community, OU represents an excellent opportunity for developing an "EcoDistrict", an integrated, neighborhood-scale energy system that emphasizes sustainability. With this in mind, CORIX intends to foster a community-based approach to the University's energy infrastructure while incorporating innovative technologies designed to maximize outputs, reduce waste and employ renewable resources.

Additionally, CORIX has established and funded an endowed faculty position, a "Sustainability Chair", as part of the University's newly established CORIX Institute for Water and Sustainability, which is dedicated to advancing the research and development of sustainable energy solutions.



DELIVERING THE CORIX ADVANTAGE

Unparalleled expertise

CORIX brings more than 70 years of experience in all aspects of developing and operating sustainable water, wastewater and energy solutions to every project we undertake. We are committed to delivering superior customer care through our service-driven programs and are focused on delivering custom solutions that meet the unique needs of our clients. CORIX's full scope of multi-utility management expertise, which includes alternative energy, district energy systems, wastewater treatment and water conservation programs, is designed to provide cost-effective, sustainable utility infrastructure services and solutions at a local level. The expertise, innovation and capabilities we provide to the University of Oklahoma will enable it to cut life cycle operating costs, redeploy funds to higher priority investment areas, avoid future capital outlays, and gain access to leading technical and operating expertise.



Creating solutions, building partnerships

Our clients and partners choose CORIX for our proven leadership in providing innovative, comprehensive, multi-utility solutions. Additionally, the strong financial and corporate foundation provided by our principal owners, CAI Capital Management and BC Investment Management Corporation, enables CORIX to become a fully invested, long-term partner to qualified clients. This helps mitigate their financial risk, freeing them to reallocate their capital toward alternate investment programs and allowing them to focus on their core mission.

