

## Steam Tunnel Up-Grades

*Project Update 3-20-12*

With phase 1 of this multi-year project complete, the Energy & Sustainability team is already seeing significant savings in natural gas usage. Tom Van Cleave - Energy & Utility Analyst- says that “we can’t forget to thank our mild winter for some of the decrease” but the team is still excited by the larger than expected preliminary results.



*(Before and After: Section of Phase 1 work.)*

Phase 2 is scheduled to start June 1st, at which time the steam will be shut down so the pipes can be safely and efficiently worked on. This “summer-shutdown” will in-and-of itself yield substantial natural gas and electric savings. The crew is working hard to prepare point of use water heaters, and larger electric water heaters so that domestic hot water will still be available during the steam shutdown. Phase 2 work will take place in the tunnels under the Shepherd Union, and Miller Admin buildings.

### Phase 2 to Do List:

- ✓ Replace old/leaky isolation Valves.
- ✓ Replace corroded pipe hangers with Stainless Steel hardware and brackets.
- ✓ Replace frozen expansion joints.
- ✓ Abate, remove & responsibly dispose asbestos insulation
- ✓ Install state-of-the-art Aero-Gel insulation.

Check back in for photos and utility usage results!

## Steam Tunnel Upgrade Project Overview



Did you know that below the University there is a 1.5 mile network of underground tunnels? These tunnels contain over 7,000 feet of pipe that deliver steam from the central heat plant to several buildings on campus to provide heat. Over the course of the next few years, WSU will be upgrading this system to make it more energy and water efficient.

