

# Is Cogeneration Right for You?

The concept of combined heat and power or cogeneration is simple: Why use 3 fuels when you can use one? Combined cooling, heat and power is the simultaneous production of electrical and thermal energy from a single fuel source. Cogeneration is not an energy source itself, but rather more of an energy multiplier, squeezing more usable energy out of each unit of fuel most everywhere it is applied.

## Ask yourself these questions:

- Consume substantial amounts of electric and heat and/or cooling energy?
- Pay more than \$0.06/kWh?
- Wish to benefit from state and utility incentives?
- Would I be devastated by any length of downtime?
- Am I planning an expansion, new construction, retrofitting or upgrade to central plant equipment and facilities?

## Cogeneration Benefits

Cogeneration offers several benefits compared to conventional electricity and thermal energy production, including:

### Efficiency Benefits

Requires less fuel to produce electricity heating and cooling.

### Environmental Benefits

Less fuel is burned, and greater efficiency is realized; co-gen reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.

### Economic Benefits

Co-gen can save facilities considerable money on their energy bills due to its high efficiency, and it can provide a hedge against electricity cost increases. Ultimately improving economic competitiveness.

### Reliability Benefits

Co-gen is an on-site generation resource and can support continued operations in the event of a disaster or grid disruption.

