

CASE STUDY

# LEGAL FIRM OBJECTS TO OLDER BUILDING'S INEFFICIENCIES AND DISCOMFORT

## OLD BUILDING COMES WITH AGE-OLD INDOOR COMFORT PROBLEMS

Local law firm Immix Law Group purchased the upper floor of a 1909, two-story historic building in the once-industrial area of Northwest Portland. Vacant for nearly three years, the 11,615-square-foot space presented many comfort challenges. Air leaked between floors, the fresh air dampers were all closed shut, and the oversized existing HVAC system was aging and inefficient.

Before they moved in, the law firm was committed to providing year-round indoor comfort for their team and their clients. To get there, they chose an HVAC configuration that would provide consistent temperatures and high indoor air quality across their approximately 30 office spaces, five conference rooms, lunch room, exercise room, two sets of restrooms, and open common and utility spaces.



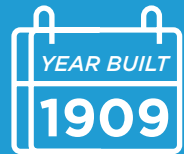
Immix rooftop showing new equipment

### PROJECT OVERVIEW



BUILDING TYPE

**OFFICE**



YEAR BUILT

**1909**



PROJECT FLOOR AREA

**11,615** sq. ft.



ENERGY UTILITY/PROGRAM

**Energy Trust of Oregon**



TOTAL PROJECT COST

**\$15.61** per sq. ft.



REDUCTION IN HVAC ENERGY USE

**72%**

# HIGH-PERFORMANCE HVAC BRINGS EFFICIENCY, TEMPERATURE CONTROL AND IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

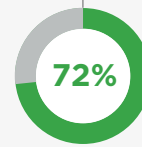
The owners decided to update their space with efficient equipment that would not only safeguard occupant comfort, but also reflect the firm's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. "We want to be good stewards," said Emily Wooton, COO of Immix Law Group. "Being a Certified B Corp, energy efficiency is very important to us."

After looking into their options, the firm discovered that a very high efficiency dedicated outside air system was an ideal HVAC solution to meet their needs. DOAS separates heating and cooling from the ventilation system to allow for optimal control of each of these critical building functions. Building on the DOAS concept, a very high efficiency DOAS includes heat recovery ventilation and focuses on increased equipment efficiency and optimized system design. This approach has been proven to yield significant energy savings in new and existing commercial buildings while also providing:

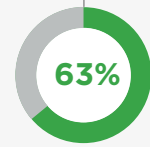
- Increased occupant comfort
- Improved indoor air quality due to filtered 100% outside air being brought into the space
- Lower energy bills because the very high efficiency HRV allows for a smaller heating and cooling system that runs less often
- Saved roof space through system downsizing and reduced ductwork
- Precise temperature and humidity control

## CONVERSION SUMMARY

Existing HVAC system:	<b>9 RTUs (35 tons in total)</b>
New HVAC system:	<b>1 16-ton Mitsubishi VRF 4 Ventacity VS1000RT HRVs</b>



reduction in total HVAC energy use



reduction in whole-space energy use

## RESULTS

Immix combined their HVAC upgrades with additional energy efficiency improvements by working with Energy Trust of Oregon. Energy Trust helps Oregon businesses and residents benefit from energy-saving solutions by providing cash incentives and technical assistance. Together they identified an incentive package best suited to meet the building's needs, that included the VRF and HRVs as well as LED lighting, windows and insulation.

Thanks to the very high efficiency DOAS upgrade, the firm is enjoying significantly reduced heating and cooling costs, improved comfort and better air quality. "One of the best benefits has been the quality of air," said Wooton. "It's just superior. If you're to walk in the hallways, you won't see particulates flying. When the sun shines in, the air is clear and it's light and it's crisp and it's fresh."

"Our bills range from \$300 to \$700 for 12,000 square feet, no matter if it's 100 degrees outside or it's a snowpocalypse."

— Emily Wooton  
COO, Immix Law Group



To learn more about this and other efficient commercial HVAC solutions, visit BetterBricks at [betterbricks.com/solutions/hvac](https://betterbricks.com/solutions/hvac).