


PSEPUGET
SOUND
ENERGY

Conagra Brands' facility in Kent, Wash., manufactures frozen breakfast foods, including pancakes and French toast. They joined ISEM in June 2020 to learn how to operate more efficiently and earn incentives from PSE.

Manufacturing facility in Kent saves more than \$36k in energy costs

A case study of PSE's Industrial Strategic Energy Management program

Customer background

Conagra Brands is one of North America's leading branded food companies with manufacturing facilities across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Their facility in Kent, Wash., has approximately 81,000 square feet and 270 employees.

Energy challenges and opportunities

Conagra Brands has many programs in place to manage energy use and efficiency at the operations, management and individual levels. Their facility in Kent joined PSE's Industrial Strategic Energy Management (ISEM) program in June 2020 to receive information and coaching on how to help their facility consume less energy.

The Kent facility, which produces packaged frozen breakfast products, began by forming a green team of employees to lead their ISEM efforts. One of the biggest challenges they faced was figuring out how to engage their entire employee base to implement energy-saving initiatives throughout the facility.

Energy savings at a glance



ELECTRIC SAVINGS
436,522 kWh

That's enough to power
36 homes for a year.



PSE INCENTIVES PAID
\$8,730



ENERGY COST SAVINGS
\$36,668

Metrics are cumulative since June 2020 when Conagra joined ISEM.

“We built our green team with stakeholders from refrigeration, compressed air, mixing and baking production, and sanitation. We represented all of our energy users to have the best insight as to where and how we could save energy across the facility.”

Jacqui Lowe
Engineering manager at Conagra

How PSE helped

In ISEM, our objective is training facility staff to save energy in daily operations, maintenance and behavior through low- and no-cost changes.

At Conagra's energy-assessment event, our engineers identified several site-wide energy-saving measures that could be implemented. A few of these measures that Conagra implemented during their first two years in ISEM included replacing seals around freezer doors to reduce air leaks, fixing compressor leaks, adjusting HVAC set points on weekends so that heating and cooling consumed less energy, and creating shutdown plans for production and distribution equipment when not in use.

Because ISEM is focused on achieving energy savings through behavioral changes, rather than capital upgrades, broad employee participation is critical. It's been a large focus of Conagra's green team since they started.

“Some of the biggest savings we realized were through switching off equipment and machinery when not in use. It takes every single employee doing that to notice results, and motivating those behavioral changes was one of our biggest challenges. It's something we continue to work on.”

Barrett Reidinger

Environmental, health and safety manager at Conagra



The tag-a-leak campaign was the green team's idea to engage employees in finding and tagging energy-wasting compressor leaks so that they can be fixed quickly.

Results

Conagra has completed their first two years in ISEM and is currently finishing their third and final year. They saved 186,306 kWh and 250,216 kWh during their first and second performance years, respectively. That equates to more than \$36,000 saved on their energy bills over the past two years. The incentives they earned from PSE total nearly \$9,000.

The green team at the Kent facility hopes to keep this momentum going once their time in ISEM is complete. They're encouraged by their accomplishments so far and will continue to share their results to broaden employee support and participation in saving energy at the facility.

“Quantifying our energy-saving efforts in terms of dollars saved, year over year, was something that really resonated with and inspired our employees.”

Jacqui Lowe

Engineering manager at Conagra

Start your energy-management journey

Learn more about PSE's Industrial Strategic Energy Management program at pse.com/isem. Or get in touch with the program directly by emailing industrialem@pse.com.



Installing variable-frequency drives on condenser cooling fans helped stabilize energy usage for refrigeration, resulting in large energy savings.



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