Carestream and Energy Management

Carestream is a global company with over 100 years of leadership in healthcare imaging. Carestream’s Windsor, CO Plant manufactures x-ray film as well as films for dental and non-destructive testing. Carestream is committed to maintaining profitability while reducing costs and optimizing operations. Their focus on energy reduction led to the enrollment in Colorado Energy Office’s Industrial Strategic Energy Management (I-SEM) Program, which:

- Identifies significant cost-saving opportunities.
- Addresses organizational and technical sides of energy management
- Is free to eligible Colorado Manufacturers.

Snapshot of I-SEM Accomplishments

Utilities Manager and I-SEM Energy Champion, Rick Merlino estimates the work completed during the I-SEM engagement resulted in nearly $200,000 in cost savings for the site. Carestream’s I-SEM-driven improvements include:

→ Comprehensive steam trap program.
→ Compressed air system upgrades.
→ Minimize High Purity Water waste.
→ Employee awareness and empowerment.

“Participating in I-SEM, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”
— Rick Merlino, Energy Champion Carestream, Windsor, CO.
Energy Walkthrough launches Energy Team

Carestream participated in the program’s energy walkthrough, which identified energy waste and opportunities and also kickstarted the launch of a cross functional energy team and a collaborative approach to energy management. Rick stated, "through the I-SEM partnership, we conducted an energy walkthrough that brought teams together from different areas in an impactful way."

Steam Trap Program leads to Employee Empowerment

In the energy walkthrough, Carestream identified their 800 steam traps as a challenging focus area. The energy team spearheaded the development of a comprehensive steam trap program and purchase of the SAGE Universal Mobile Tester. This program eased steam trap assessment, reduced time, cost, energy waste, and empowered staff. The initiative, which was first piloted within the Utilities team, quickly gained traction across other business units. With the help of a very strong energy team and commitment from site leadership within weeks, the program was rolled out, traps were assessed, inventoried into the database and now actively managed.

Building Technician and energy team member, Alejandro Tovar continues to champion the steam trap program. Alejandro shared, “before the implementation of the steam trap program, we maintained traps without any data. Now we survey steam traps proactively to determine the condition of each trap. Currently 95% of traps are in “good” condition.” The energy team continues to evolve and improve the steam trap program.

I-SEM enhances our view of Energy Management

As part of the I-SEM program, participants receive tailored coaching, access to useful tools, and attend regular cohort workshops. Carestream described, “I-SEM gave us an opportunity to take a disciplined approach to tackle ongoing energy related projects with guidance from an outside partner.” If they were to say one thing to other businesses about the I-SEM program it would be this: “There is nothing to lose and everything to gain and much to learn. From technical and organizational tools, network opportunities to expert guidance. Why not do it?”

Implement energy savings opportunities at your site by visiting: bit.ly/ISEMCEO.