Vossloh and Energy Management

Vossloh is a global railroad tie manufacturing company headquartered in Germany. At a corporate level, Vossloh is focused on implementing carbon reduction and energy efficiency strategies. To attain company-wide goals and standards Vossloh-Colorado is committed to energy efficiency and decarbonization.

This commitment led to their enrollment in the Colorado Energy Office’s Industrial Strategic Energy Management (I-SEM) Program, which:

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

Snapshot of I-SEM Accomplishments

**Upgraded lighting.** Vossloh replaced old metal halide lighting with LEDs resulting in estimated savings of $31,500/year. Vossloh also received $5,400 in rebates from their local utility provider for the project.

**Scheduled oil heater.** The facility installed a timer and set schedules to align with production process resulting in an estimated $77,500 cost reduction annually.

**Bonus water savings.** Vossloh installed a specialized mist system in the concrete curing chamber to atomize water, removing the need for a ¼ inch compressed air orifice. The mist system eliminated the inappropriate compressed air use AND reduced water usage by 100 gallons per day.

This approach [I-SEM] will enable the company to better forecast production and promote lower cost product use to our customers.

- John Caffey, Energy Champion
Opportunity Register spurs action across international Vossloh sites

During monthly energy management meetings, energy team members reviewed the opportunity register, a dynamic project tracking tool, and discussed assigned opportunities. Each month the Energy Team worked together to review project status, determine project shortfalls, ensure projects stayed on track, and discuss any new initiatives and if feasible, added new opportunities to the register.

Vossloh Colorado also worked to share their successes throughout the wider organization by training other sites to identify energy saving opportunities and spearheading the sharing of energy efficiency opportunities with Vossloh sites across the world.

Support from local Co-ops

The I-SEM program connected local Co-ops with participating I-SEM organizations. San Isabel Electric Association (SIEA) appreciated the opportunity to connect with, and support, Vossloh throughout the I-SEM program. In addition to learning more about their goals as an organization, SIEA was able to supply additional rebates and provide Vossloh with tools to more readily track their energy usage. It was invaluable to have these conversations with Vossloh. As a result of SIEA’s inclusion in the I-SEM program, SIEA ended the year with a number of strategies that could further support their broader membership with their energy goals.

Energy Model visualizes energy savings

As part of the I-SEM program, participants receive facility-wide, regression-based energy models to help track and visualize their energy data. Energy Coaches encourage participants to set and track towards an energy goal. At the end of 2020, Vossloh was hesitant to set energy reduction goals for 2021 due the perceived inability to reach them. The use of the energy model provided Vossloh the visibility needed to confidently set savings goals. As of February 2021, Vossloh Colorado exceeded their 20% reduction in electricity, natural gas, and water consumption. Vossloh is excited to continue their energy reduction trend and to see what they can achieve in the years to come.

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