

DONALDSON COMPANY

Increasing efficiencies and reducing waste



At Donaldson Company in Bloomington, Minnesota, continuous innovation and improvement are part of the company culture. For over 100 years, this filtration system company has looked for opportunities within its own organization, now operating in 44 countries, to operate more efficiently and reduce waste.

Over the years, this commitment has paved the way for a number of sustainability and energy related projects that have helped the company save resources and money.

Donaldson's projects also fit into the City of Bloomington's larger community goal to reduce energy use, invest in renewable technology, and encourage others to join in the effort.

START WITH A LIST

Facility Engineering Manager Bill Coldwell began energy efficiency work on Donaldson's global headquarters by creating a "to-do" list for the six company-owned campus buildings. He worked with Xcel Energy's Process Efficiency program in 2010 to assess the half-million-square-foot campus to identify energy saving opportunities. The assessment identified more than 100 recommendations. With the list in hand, Coldwell could prioritize and begin implementing projects. He made fast progress, completing 40 projects in the first two years.

"It was helpful to have a methodical plan, starting with low-hanging fruit, then moving on to the projects with longer paybacks," Coldwell says. By starting with smaller, simple tasks, Coldwell was able to garner support for larger projects.

Projects ranged from weather stripping doors and conducting boiler tune-ups, to installing or upgrading programmable controls and reprogramming equipment operating schedules. The first 40 projects are estimated to have saved the company just over \$56,000 annually, resulting in a simple payback of less than four years.

"The investment has paid off more as savings continue to grow," Coldwell says.

And there's more work to do. Many of the assessment recommendations that were not completed within the

“ We think about saving energy in everything we do. It's in our genes.”

Donaldson Facility Engineering Manager
Bill Coldwell



PROCESS EFFICIENCY SNAPSHOT

Project:
Process Efficiency Assessment

Number of projects implemented:
40

Estimated project cost:
\$228,000

Annual energy costs savings:
\$56,000

Total rebate amount:
\$19,200

Simple payback:
Under 4 years

first two years have been prioritized as part of scheduled maintenance or integrated into building upgrade projects throughout the campus.

INVESTING IN LIGHTING

Many companies often start with lighting upgrades when doing energy efficiency work and Donaldson was no exception. Coldwell watched LED lighting technology improve and prices drop when he decided to test out the technology through a pilot project in 2016 to see if it met the facilities' needs.

The pilot project was a success. Coldwell's team converted 5,000 feet of office space lighting to LEDs, saving the company an additional \$2,450 annually. An Xcel Energy rebate helped cut the cost and bring the simple payback a little over of four years. Additionally, the project improved lighting levels beyond the specified levels required for safety and productivity.

PART OF A BIGGER PLAN

The city of Bloomington is spotlighting Donaldson's energy projects to encourage other businesses to get involved in the community's conservation efforts. These efforts are outlined in the city's Energy Action Plan.

"We help communities form a team, make a plan that reflects their priorities, and implement change. We also track and report progress, which often is a great motivator to continue efforts and encourage even more people to get involved," says Tami Gunderzik, Partners in Energy manager.

NEXT STEPS

With additional goals in place, and knowing their part of the larger picture, Donaldson continues to look for new ways to save energy and money.

The company will continue to upgrade to efficient equipment and use lessons learned from previous improvement projects to identify what to do next.

To find out more about Xcel Energy's Rebate programs, call an Energy Efficiency Specialist at [855.839.8862](tel:855.839.8862) or visit xcelenergy.com/Business.

To find out how you can save money on your CenterPoint Energy natural gas bill with rebate programs and services from CenterPoint Energy contact your account manager or the Business Customer Hotline at [877.809.3803](tel:877.809.3803) or visit CenterPointEnergy.com/BusinessRebates.



LED LIGHTING PILOT PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project:
Pilot LED lighting upgrades

Estimated project cost:
\$14,500

Total annual energy savings:
25,000 kWh

Annual energy costs savings:
\$2,450

Total rebate amount:
\$3,770

Simple payback:
4.4 years

ENERGY ACTION PLAN

- In 2017, City Council approved Bloomington's Energy Action Plan.
- The plan was developed through a community stakeholder process.
- More information can be found here: blm.mn/energyactionplan

By 2020, the City of Bloomington seeks to achieve the following business goals:

- Getting 70 businesses to participate in an energy audit or recommissioning study
- Doubling baseline energy efficiency program participation
- Signing up an additional 10 businesses for Xcel Energy's Windsource® program, Renewable Connect® program, or a community solar garden subscription