



WINPAK PUTS A LID ON ENERGY WASTE

As part of a global packaging enterprise, the Winpak Heat Seal plant in Pekin, Illinois, makes the flexible foil lids that keep dairy products fresh. And by taking a fresh look at its energy use in early 2013, Winpak sealed in some serious savings.

For Winpak, static electricity is the enemy of efficiency because it interferes with the production and packaging of the foil lids. With help from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, Winpak found a way to reduce static and cut its energy use.

“I’m always interested in cost savings,” says Wayne Altpeter, maintenance manager at Winpak’s Pekin plant.

Fortunately, cost savings are always on the agenda at the annual Ameren Illinois Business Symposium. This free annual event highlights energy-savings programs and incentives for businesses and nonprofits.

“It would be easy for me to bury my head in my daily work, but because of my relationship with Ameren Illinois’ energy efficiency program, my eyes are always open to new opportunities.”

— Wayne Altpeter, Maintenance Manager at Winpak’s Pekin plant

After attending a compressed air session at the 2012 symposium, Altpeter was inspired to investigate his plant’s compressed air usage and costs.

For years, compressed air played an important part in the Pekin plant’s production processes, which include printing, laminating, and die cutting. “Air knives” continuously blew air over the foil to neutralize the static charge.

With 27 air knives blowing air 24 hours a day, six days a week, compressed air took a significant bite out of the plant’s bottom line.

“Compressed air is very expensive — especially when it’s open blowing,” says David Kilgore, Program Engineer for Ameren Illinois.

Fortunately, Altpeter’s research led him to ionizer bars, an alternative technology that is far more efficient. Using a very small amount of energy, the ionizer bars shoot a steady stream

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You’re Invited to the Ameren Illinois Business Symposium!

Ameren Illinois invites all business and nonprofit customers to join us at the **FREE** Business Symposium. At this annual event, you’ll:

- Learn about cash incentives for energy-saving projects
- Discover the best technologies and strategies to reduce electric and gas use
- Attend break-out sessions tailored to both new and returning attendees
- Meet trusted Program Allies who can help you implement your project
- Network and share ideas with your peers
- Earn Continuing Education Units
- Receive a 15% bonus coupon that could be worth thousands in additional incentive dollars!

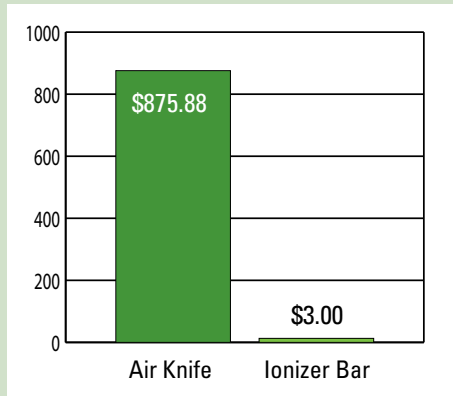


Winpak Seals Up Serious Energy Savings

Benefits to Winpak Heat Seal:

- More than \$23,500 in annual savings
- More than \$7,000 in incentives covered 25% of project costs
- More than 563,000 kWh saved every year
- Reduced project payback period
- Less environmental impact
- Every dollar saved boosts the bottom line

Energy Cost Comparison



Incentives Available for Custom Projects

When a cookie-cutter approach won't work, try the custom incentive program.

This program offers cash incentives for projects or processes unique to your business — projects that are not eligible for standard incentives.

of ions at the foil to neutralize static. Rather than operating continuously, the new equipment monitors the static level and produces an electrical charge only when needed — all without compressed air.

Through its Custom Incentive program, Ameren Illinois provided more than \$7,000 to help Winpak replace air knives with ionizer bars on 27 lid-making machines. The incentive covered roughly 25% of total project costs.

"The project cost quite a bit, and the incentive helped with the cost and the payback," says Altpeter.

Those up-front savings only grew as Winpak sliced its monthly energy costs. As Altpeter says, "By switching to smart technology, we were able to reduce our compressed air usage big time."

"Big time" may be an understatement, considering that Winpak reduced energy consumption related to compressed air by 99%. Whereas each air knife used 21,734 kWh a year, each new ionizer bar gets the job done using only about 75 kWh a year. That dramatic drop in energy usage equates to annual savings of more than \$23,500.

"This was a unique application of technology — exactly the kind of project our Custom Incentive program was designed for," says Kilgore. "This creative approach addressed the issue of costly compressed air, and the associated savings reduction is unmatched."

Energy experts like David Kilgore provided Winpak priceless support through the application process.

"The Ameren Illinois energy efficiency team really helped with the paperwork and led me in the right direction," says Altpeter. "They are very easy to work with — and it's worthwhile."

Along with the satisfaction of helping the company and the environment, Altpeter enjoys getting a return on Winpak's investment.

"The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program is kind of a no-brainer for me," says Altpeter. "As a corporation, we pay into the program fund as part of our monthly bill. If you're paying into it, it's worth trying to get some of that money back."

Having found a way to foil energy waste, these days Winpak is manufacturing savings, along with the products that keep our food fresh.

The Bottom Line

By installing new smart equipment to reduce static, Winpak's Pekin plant reduced energy use associated with compressed air by an unbelievable 99%!

READY TO BEGIN?

AmerenIllinoisSavings.com

1.866.800.0747

