

Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency

Southeastern
Container



Public Service
of New Hampshire

Southeastern Container, located in Hudson, New Hampshire, is one of nine similar plants that produce and supply plastic bottles to Coca-Cola bottlers. For over four years Southeastern Container has aggressively pursued initiatives to reduce energy consumption and has installed cutting edge efficiency measures in the plastic bottle industry. As a result, the Hudson location is considered to be the company's most efficient plant.

With the help of Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Southeastern Container (SEC) set a multi year goal of conserving energy while at the same time improving the output of its blowmolders so that more bottles could be produced using less energy.

The major energy efficiency effort at SEC's Hudson plant was the installation of two air recovery systems (ARS). SEC is one of the first plants in New England to have this type of system. Compressed air, using both high and low pressure, is the major source of energy consumption in the production of plastic bottles. The ARS redirects high-pressure air exhaust to the low-pressure system, allowing low-pressure compressors to be turned down or off depending on the product being manufactured. The ARS works in conjunction with a new compressor control system to improve efficiency. Other efficiency improvements include:

- High efficiency lighting fixtures and controls installed.
- Industrial ceiling fans installed to re-circulate heat from machines. This provides comfort heating and thus reduced gas heating bills (as a result of the fans, natural gas heating savings per year range between \$10,000 and \$15,000).
- Recycled materials including rejected plastic bottles and all shipping materials are reused.

The Energy Efficiency Advantage	
Total Annual Energy Savings	■ 4,907,885 kWh ■ 474 kW ■ 19% reduction in annual consumption
Total Annual Cost Savings	\$562,908
Total Customer Investment	\$313,470
Public Rate Payer Funded Efficiency Program Investment	54% of project funded with rebates
Customer Payback Period	Less than 1 year

Southeastern Container was honored as a Business Leader for Energy Efficiency by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) at the 2007 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit. For more information, please visit www.neep.org/conference/2007/index.html.



NEEP is a regional non-profit organization whose mission is to promote energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry in the Northeast U.S.

NEEP coordinates programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and that help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system.

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