



For Immediate Release
Contact: Jan Schaeffer, 503-445-7603
jan@energytrust.org

Susan Jowaiszas
503-223-2802
susan@irisgrouppr.com

NEWS

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Energy improvements boost production efficiency at Medford manufacturers

*Two companies are the first to benefit from new, substantial incentives for
industrial energy efficiency*

PORTLAND, Ore. — February 19, 2004 — Two Medford manufacturing plants are running cleaner, greener and smarter as the first companies in the state to receive financial incentives from the Production Efficiency program from Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc.

Erickson Air-Crane Incorporated and Timber Products Company are two of the first industrial customers to have taken advantage of the Production Efficiency Program from the Energy Trust. Working with RHT Energy Solutions, Medford, Ore., these companies were able to identify energy savings and make upgrades to their operations for better energy use and bottom line benefits. In both cases, substantial energy savings were just the beginning. Erickson Air-Crane and Timber Products say that efficiency gains are raising their productivity and making them more competitive in the marketplace.

The Energy Trust's Production Efficiency Program was launched in the fall 2003, to help Oregon industrial customers of Pacific Power and Portland General Electric improve the energy efficiency of their industrial processes. "By analyzing how industrial plants are using electricity for pumps and motors, air compressors, fans, transport, refrigeration and controls, we're able to identify where energy can be saved, and how that improved efficiency can enhance the whole operation," said Buzz Thielemann, RHT Energy Solutions.

Timber Products Company savings are in the baghouse

Timber Products Company, a diversified wood products company based in Springfield, Ore., wanted to install a more efficient and effective dust collection system at their Medford, Ore., particleboard plant. Timber Products installed a high efficiency Donaldson Torit 484 RFW10 baghouse, a system that uses just 2/3 of the energy used by conventional systems. Prior to the installation of this system, dust was vented into the atmosphere.

The new equipment consumes 386,458 fewer kilowatt-hours than standard equipment, at annual savings of more than \$15,000. Additionally, the new dust collection system has substantially reduced the plant's emissions, which means cleaner air for everyone in the Rogue Valley. The Energy Trust incentives totaled nearly \$52,000 to offset the cost of the high efficiency equipment. Timber Products expects the project to pay back their investment in 2.9 years.

"The Energy Trust incentives are allowing us to invest in projects that otherwise we would not be able to do. By moving forward, we have the ability to compete in a global market that is increasingly competitive," said Brad Beavers, Process Control Manager, Timber Products Company.

Erickson Air-Crane carrying lighter energy load

Erickson Air-Crane, Inc., operates and sells the S-64 "Aircrane," one of the largest, most versatile external load-carrying helicopter in production, used to fight fires and for environmental logging and construction around the world. At their Central Point, Ore., manufacturing plant, the company needed better air compressors. Their old system limited productivity at the plant. There wasn't enough compressed air to operate all their equipment. During peak times, parts of the operation had to be shut down.

"The Energy Trust study pointed out some of the shortcomings in our equipment," said Cary Stauffer, facilities manager, Erickson Air-Crane. "We could have chosen a less expensive solution, but it wouldn't have met our needs for long. The long-term energy savings far outweigh the short-term cost of the higher efficiency equipment." Erickson Air-Crane has already started another project with the Energy Trust.

By installing high efficiency, state-of-the-art equipment with a variable frequency drive and a cycling refrigerated dryer, Erickson is saving energy and improving their productivity. Energy savings from the high efficiency equipment means that the plant is turning out more work with less energy, with annual savings of 578,170 kilowatt hours of electricity at a cost of nearly \$24,000 per year. With Energy Trust incentives of more than \$43,000, the project has a simple payback of 1.3 years and qualified for Oregon State Business Energy Tax Credits.

Incentives encourage investment in efficiency

Production efficiency appears to be a big priority for Southern Oregon industry. Nearly 50 new projects are in the pipeline for the program. "With the high efficiency equipment available today, companies not only save money, they get a better product and can make more of it at a lower cost," said Bonkowski. "Energy Trust incentives are making it possible for many companies, especially resource-based industries, to invest in the future of their plants."

Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing how Oregonians use energy by promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy for Oregon customers of Pacific Power, Portland General Electric and NW Natural. For more information about the Production Efficiency Program and Energy Trust, visit the Energy Trust website, www.energytrust.org, call 1-866-ENTRUST.

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