

Energy Audit Case Study

Many manufacturers use compressed air because it is useful and friendly to work with - but it also can consume a lot of energy. A variety of measures are available to curb compressed air energy use.

This facility had a 100 Hp compressor, conventional screw design with mechanical flow modulation and refrigerated drier. There was a wide swing in flow demand due to the need to maintain pressure at all times in certain parts of the plant. When the plant was closed the compressor operated in a partly load state where efficiency was low. When the plant was closed, leaks were the only compressed air demand.

Implemented measures: The 20-year old compressor was replaced with a variable speed unit to more efficiently handle the low load periods. A compressed air flow meter was installed as a tool for a leak management program, to reduce compressor air flow. Estimated savings are \$11,500 per year.

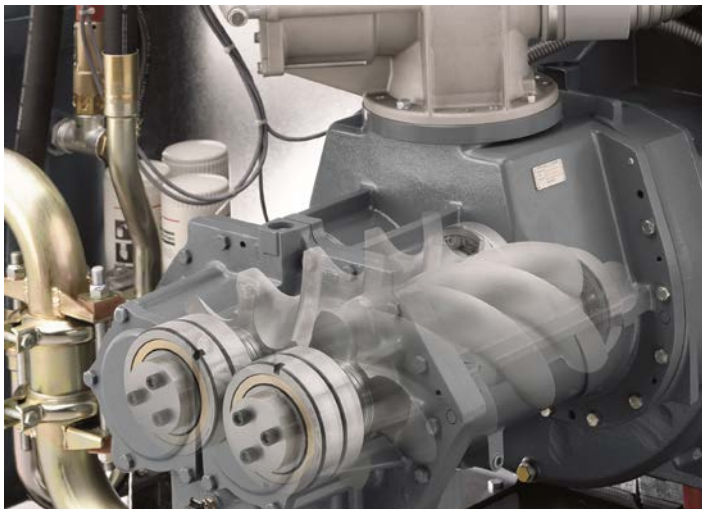


Image: Atlas Copco

Additional measures for compressed air cost reductions are being considered, including provisions to turn the compressor off when the plant shuts down, and air amplifiers that reduce air consumption for blow-off.

Colorado Springs Utilities offers no cost energy audits to all commercial and industrial customers. Call Barbara Rabideau at 719-668-8907

