



Custom Efficiency

For Complex Projects

For Nunhems USA, doing it right the first time pays off big

Based in the Netherlands, Nunhems is one of the largest commercial vegetable-seed producers in the world. In October 2010, its chief executive officer (CEO) joined Idaho's governor and lieutenant governor to celebrate the completion of a \$30-million expansion at the company's U.S. headquarters in Parma, Idaho.

Idaho Power was there to recognize Nunhems for the ambitious energy efficiency improvements it incorporated into the centerpiece of its newest facility, a 100,000-square-foot seed-processing plant.

Putting hot air to good use

Nunhems boasts an enviable history of energy conservation all over the world. The expansion in Parma continued that tradition by including a number of electricity-saving components. For example, Nunhems installed a compressed-air recovery system that captures heat produced by large air compressors that dry and clean the seeds. Normally expelled into the atmosphere, this hot air is then recirculated to heat the entire plant during the winter. As Nunhems' Facilities and Maintenance Manager Shane Roe points out, "It's basically free heat."

Nunhems also installed six 15-horsepower, high-efficiency ventilation fans equipped with variable frequency drives (VFDs). The fans are used for drying, curing, and storing the seeds. Adding the VFDs allows Nunhems to reduce the fan speed—which reduces the electricity each fan uses—to match the amount of seed in the facility while maintaining the correct air flow across the product.

"When you're building something from the ground up," Shane says, "sometimes it's not that much more expensive, and often less expensive when you factor in the payback, to go ahead and do things the smart way, rather than just the easy way. That's one of the things that Nunhems has always prided itself on. We try to do things right the first time."



Saving the kilowatt

"Every kilowatt we save is one we don't have to produce," says Todd Schultz, Idaho Power's commercial energy-efficiency program leader.

Energy efficiency continues to be the least-costly power resource. When a residential customer turns off a light or a commercial customer takes part in one of Idaho Power's energy efficiency programs, it helps delay the need to build additional generating facilities; helps preserve natural resources; helps keep rates among the lowest in the nation; and allows Idaho Power to keep providing our customers with reliable, responsible, fairly priced energy.



**“... do things the smart way,
rather than just the easy way.”**

–Shane Roe, Facilities and Maintenance
Manager, Nunhems USA

The savings

Together, the two projects in the new facility cost \$54,988, of which Nunhems earned an incentive of \$38,492 from Idaho Power as part of its Custom Efficiency program. This will reduce Nunhems electrical usage by almost 800,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, which will save the company about \$43,700 annually over using conventional technologies.*

Project	Project Cost	Idaho Power Rebate	Customer's Out-Of-Pocket Cost	Dollar/Year Savings	Payback (in months)
Ventilation fans and VFDs	\$24,000	\$16,800	\$7,200	\$13,100	6.0
Heat recovery system	\$30,998	\$21,692	\$9,296	\$30,590	4.0
Total	\$54,988	\$38,492	\$16,496	\$43,690	4.8

* Total annual energy savings of all projects associated with upgrading the company's lighting; heating, ventalating, and air conditioning (HVAC); and building-envelope systems at its USA headquarters is approximately 1.4 million kWhs, which saves approximately \$84,000 per year. That's enough electricity to serve 100 average-sized homes in Idaho Power's service area for one year.

Uncommon savings are quite common

Saving energy has always been a smart business decision. Now, Idaho Power makes it attainable. Our complete suite of energy efficiency programs provides attractive incentives to commercial and industrial customers who want to reduce their utility costs.

- The **Custom Efficiency** program offers substantial rebates to large commercial and industrial customers who invest energy-saving improvements in their facilities.
- **Easy Upgrades** provides incentives of up to \$100,000 when companies retrofit their infrastructures with energy-saving upgrades.
- The **Building Efficiency** program pays up to \$100,000 *per project* to mitigate the additional capital costs when companies upgrade their lighting, cooling, controls, and building shells to more efficient components.
- **FlexPeak Management** offers commercial and industrial customers incentives in the form of recurring payments for reducing their power consumption during times of overall peak demand.

*The above success story was produced in cooperation with,
and approval from, Nunhems USA.*

Saving the kilowatt *(continued)*

In 2009, Idaho Power customers increased the number of kilowatts they saved by 23 percent over 2008. That's enough electricity to serve the city of Jerome, Idaho.

"We're grateful to all of our customers who find ways to save electricity," Todd notes. "And we're proud to support their efforts through our energy efficiency incentive programs."

How much can your company save?

For more information about Idaho Power's energy efficiency incentive programs, go to www.idahopower.com/business or call us at 208-388-5624. We'll show how you can join smart companies like Nunhems USA, saving energy and money.