

Worldwide Quality Process Evaluates Energy Use

High-energy-use companies see benefits, implement strategies

It's common knowledge among manufacturers that effective energy management is a key strategy for controlling costs and raising productivity. But how can you manage what you don't measure?

Stora Enso, a global paper, packaging and forest products company with seven American mill sites, including Whiting and Stevens Point, Wis., was faced with just such a challenge. With the help of Wisconsin Public Service, the company turned to energy consultant Envinta's One-2-Five energy process to measure its energy use — and discovered that overall, its mills scored significantly above average compared to other mills in the North American paper industry. Yet it also found areas for improvement.

“As facilitators, our intent is to create awareness of a company's energy use throughout the organization,” said Gary Oudenhoven, the Public Service account executive who worked on the One-2-Five process with the Wisconsin Stora Enso sites. “At the same time, we also benchmark our customers against like industries.”

One-2-Five is essentially a range of sophisticated diagnostic tools designed to evaluate a business's existing energy practices while also demonstrating where opportunity exists for the implementation of effective and continuously improving energy management programs. Concerned about energy use and efficiency, as well as the environment, Stora Enso worked with Envinta-trained Public Service staff to apply the One-2-Five diagnostic tools to its energy practices during a two-hour session.

“It's not a technical audit, but a truly useful exercise when you gather the entire team, from management to

the guys on the floor, and get discussions going between departments about how they actually manage their energy use,” said Oudenhoven.

Based on the One-2-Five diagnostic session and the help of Public Service, Stora Enso has developed smart energy-use action plans. The One-2-Five process has also allowed Stora Enso to track how effective each mill site is in implementing the plans.

“One of the big things is One-2-Five helps customers look at their different operations,” Oudenhoven said. “They can benchmark across their sites, and see each one's strengths and weaknesses. That allows them to focus on their weaknesses and put the resources where they'll help the mills become more effective.

“They can also find that one mill has identified something that needs to be fixed to help conserve energy. You might have one mill doing it, but not all; One-2-Five helps you see that.”

In reaction to the recommendations developed by Public Service and the Stora Enso teams, the mills are currently striving to achieve a consistent 4-star rating, which would put them among the top 2% in efficient energy use among globally evaluated industrial sites.

*If your company would like to take advantage of this **free opportunity** to use energy more wisely, contact your Public Service account executive about the One-2-Five process today.*

