

Birds Eye Foods, Inc. Facility Renovation



Birds Eye Foods completes renovations at its Genesee County Facility

Oakfield, Genesee County

Background

The corporate headquarters of Birds Eye Foods, Inc., the nation's leading manufacturer and processor of frozen vegetables, is located in Rochester New York. The company has approximately 16 facilities across the country, including a processing plant in Oakfield, New York.

When Birds Eye Foods decided to renovate its individual quick frozen (IQF) food processing operations in Oakfield, it was not only looking for ways to increase the efficiency of its processing operation, but was also seeking ways to reduce its energy use and save on energy costs. To achieve its goal, Birds Eye Food management contacted the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for assistance and participated in the **New York Energy SmartSM** New Construction Program.

Recommendations

An energy analysis of the processing plant was completed by Science Applications International Corporation, an Outreach Project Consultant under contract to NYSERDA. SAIC recommended the following measures to improve energy efficiency:

- New Rotary Screw Ammonia Compressors for Low and High Stage Duty
- Air-Cooling Beds and Refrigerated Hydro-Chillers to Pre-Cool Product
- Automatic Purge System
- Oversized (10-inch) High Stage Compressor Discharge Header
- Additional Evaporative Condenser to Reduce Condensing Pressure

Incentive and Results

NYSERDA provided a **\$276,851** incentive for the implementation of the recommended measures which result in an:

- Estimated annual energy reduction of 1,287,603 kWh
- Estimated summer peak demand reduction of 914 kW
- Annual operating savings of \$122,323

As a result of the upgrade Birds Eye Foods approximately doubled, to 90 million pounds per year, the amount of beans, corn, squash, peas, rutabaga and artichokes that can be processed at its Oakfield plant.



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