

***Andromeda Nomination Star of Energy Efficiency Nomination
Atlas Foundry –Marion, Indiana***

Like many foundries, until recently, little effort was given to reduce or conserve energy in Atlas Foundry in Marion, Indiana. The cost of lighting and energy was viewed as a fixed cost. And according to President and Chief Executive Officer, Jim Gartland, the atmosphere inside the foundry was dim and employee contentment with poorly lit work areas was low.

As for many manufacturing facilities, rising energy costs were also becoming an increasing problem for Atlas Foundry. In fact, electric rates have increased by 20 to 50 percent in many areas leaving many companies with a high cost to do business and no room to pass along those costs to undeserving customers.

To begin to understand how the company could use energy more efficiently, improve poorly lit work areas and possibly reduce the costs of high energy bills, Gartland engaged the foundry in an energy audit with Energy Management Systems (EMS) in the summer of 2007.

After the initial meeting with EMS, the entire process from energy audit to installation of energy efficient lighting and motion sensors, took less than six weeks and caused no interruption to production.

The energy audit uncovered problems with in the current lighting including:

- The discovery of older-style lights that used too much energy.
- The inefficient lights also were outputting approximately 30% of the light as when they were new. Atlas was paying twice as much for half the light wasting a lot of energy.
- EMS’s onsite engineering also analyzed the daily tasks in the facility and discovered several low traffic areas in the foundry that were constantly lit wasting energy when not in use.

Using calculations of current energy operating costs and estimated energy savings, the EMS energy audit provided recommendations on proper fixture and lamp selections, use of motion sensors and dimming systems as well as on/off controls throughout Atlas Foundry.

By using energy efficient lighting and motion sensor controls to turn lights off when not in use, Atlas Foundry significantly reduced air pollution by 340,000 pounds a year or the equivalence of 578 cars over the next 20 years.

To illustrate more relevance to the environmental impact of energy efficient lighting, the following chart offers the environmental equivalent for the energy saved by Atlas Foundry alone.

Environmental Equivalent	1 Year	20 Years
Acres of New Trees Planted	32 acres	641 acres
Cars Removed from the Road	29 cars	578 cars
Gallons of Gas Saved	14,632 gallons	292,650 gallons

In addition, the lighting upgrade included the complete removal and recycling of old fixtures in the foundry and the certification for haz-mat disposal of those lights.

With little effort and minimal investment, Atlas Foundry quickly improved the workplace environment for employees, saved significant amounts of energy and enjoyed a cost savings each month by upgrading older, dimmer lights to energy efficient lights and installing motion sensors to control lights throughout the foundry.

Understanding where energy was being wasted was the first step for Atlas. Their commitment to saving energy and improving the workplace for employees has made a significant impact on Atlas' business and the environment.