



CASE STUDY: VEKA WEST

Unique Manufacturing Project Produces Big Savings

VEKA is a worldwide leader in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) extrusion, specializing in the window and door market. In 1987, VEKA constructed the industry's first highly automated computer-controlled compounding and extrusion complex just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. VEKA West opened in 1995 near Reno, Nevada. This facility was built to serve Canada, Mexico and the western United States.

PVC extrusion is a high-volume manufacturing process in which raw PVC material is mixed with micro-ingredients, such as heat stabilizers and color pigments, to form a powdery material known as "compound." The compound is converted from a solid to a taffy-like state, then extruded and cooled as finished components.

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CALL | 800.342.6335

EMAIL | commercial@nvenergy.com

WEB | www.nvenergy.com/commercial

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Project Summary

No stranger to energy efficiency, VEKA West has retrofitted its PVC extrusion machines with new calibration tables to include variable speed drive (VSD) pumps to efficiently control the flow of water used to cool the newly formed PVC. The new calibration tables also feature a state-of-the-art screen, which the operator can use to see real-time energy use.



Energy-saving Equipment

VEKA's general manager notes, "VEKA West has been involved in many NV Energy programs with great success, from lighting to variable speed drives on our water cooling system, all of which have helped with the cost of the projects, reduced our power consumption and lowered our power cost." As a result of the calibration table retrofit with VSDs, VEKA West can expect energy savings of more than 386,000 kWh annually.



Project Results

Building Type: Manufacturing

Project Type: Electrical retrofit

Measures: Retrofit two calibration tables on plastic extrusion machines to include VSDs on water pumps

Incentive: \$22,398

Projected Annual kWh Savings: 386,265