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Strategic News for Energy Management



6 PLACES TO LOOK FOR CONTINUOUS ENERGY IMPROVEMENT

People sometimes ask me, "What would you do when you run out of energy opportunities?"

"Well, first of all," I say, "I would give thanks. I would so love to have that problem." But, alas, it is not to be.

Why not?

Strategic Energy Management is founded on the assumption that you can continuously improve your energy performance and reduce your energy costs. People who are skeptical immediately jump to the end game, as if the possibility of running out of things to do is going to happen tomorrow. (It won't.) People who have seen good continuous improvement programs in action, tacitly assume that you never reach the end of your opportunities. Where's the truth?

The truth is that you CAN run out of opportunities after many, many years of

work. But, not to worry. Change is always upon us.

If the time comes that you feel you've run out of opportunities, look in these places:

- **LOW HANGING FRUIT** - Low hanging fruit is, as they say, the first to grow back. Did you plug the compressed air leaks last year? Look again. Defrost refrigeration coils? Make sure it's happening. Inspect air intake dampers? It only takes one to gum up the HVAC.
- **NEW PRODUCT LINES** - Most facilities produce multiple new products over their lives. Making these products requires new equipment or using the old equipment differently. This almost always introduces inefficiencies. Look at new product lines closely.
- **NEW PROCESSES** - Most facilities adopt new production processes from time to time - robotics replacing manual labor, air cooling replacing water cooling, etc. Review them for any energy saving possibilities that came with them.
- **NEW TECHNOLOGIES** - Understand the new technologies that are continually being developed that will render some of your equipment relatively inefficient. And then bring in the most beneficial ones.
- **NEW EMPLOYEES** - New employees must be appropriately trained. Awareness Training, Operator Training, and Maintenance Training will uncover new ideas from new staff as they engage in energy management.
- **NEW REGULATIONS** - Yes! New regulation can require new processes or new equipment that should force you to consider if any new energy saving opportunities came along with them.

So, you see, you can never sit back on your laurels. It is always time to get to work on energy efficiency.

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