

HYDRO ONE / ENERGY INNOVATORS Manufacturing



VARIABLE DRIVE PRODUCES CONSTANT SAVINGS FOR METAL MANUFACTURER

Fowler Metal Industries

Burford, Ontario

• Implementation of a new Variable Frequency Drive compressor

Previous Compressor

40 hp compressor, using modulation to vary its compressed air output

New Compressor

30 hp variable frequency drive compressor

Expected Savings

Total demand reduction: 19 kW

Annual energy savings: 132,700 kWh

Incentives

Project cost: \$38,500

Retrofit Program incentive: \$15,200







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Since 1972, Fowler Metal Industries has been providing precision sheet metal cutting, forming and machining for the automotive, industrial and other manufacturing sectors. Compressors play a big role in their processes, so any gains in energy efficiency go right to the bottom line. In a review of their equipment, Fowler Metal Industries identified an existing 40 hp compressor for replacement. Running approximately 6,240 hours a year (the equivalent of 17 hours every day), the compressor uses modulation to vary compressed air output.

Move to Variable Frequency = Immediate Savings

By comparing specs, it was determined that the 40 hp compressor could be replaced by a 30 hp variable frequency drive (VFD) compressor. The new compressor required less energy to operate but was equally powerful. The replacement netted a total demand savings of 19 kW and an estimated annual consumption savings of 132,700 kWh.

Incentive Based on \$800/kW

As a custom non-lighting project, the switch to a VFD was eligible for an incentive of \$15,200 (\$800/kW demand savings X 19 kW). With a total project cost of \$38,500, the net cost after the incentive was reduced to \$23,200.

Fowler Metal Industries is currently undergoing an energy audit to identify further savings by converting additional compressors.

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