

Summary of the Minnesota Manufacturing and Food Processing Energy Efficiency Workshop

Rochester, Minnesota | November 19, 2015

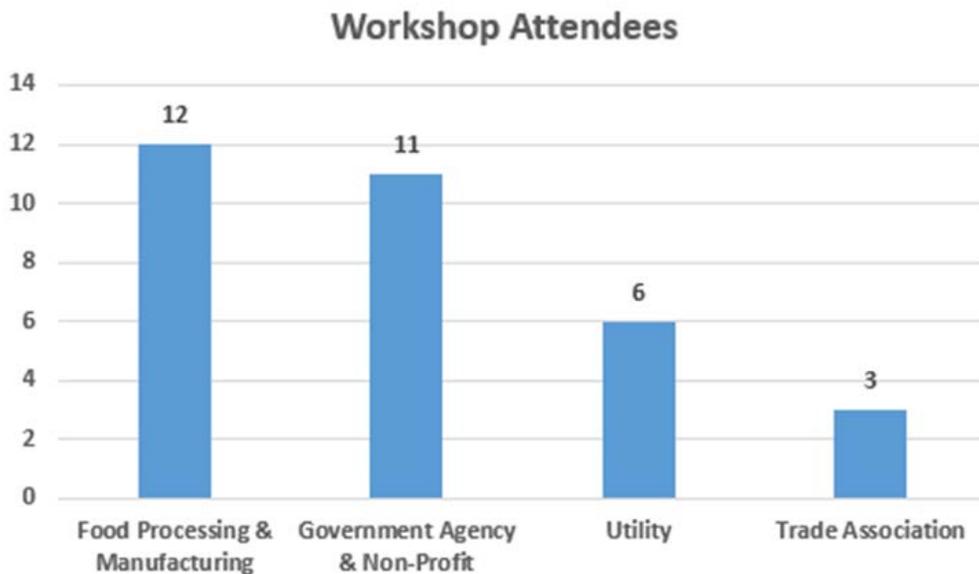
Purpose of the workshop:

Bring together industry, government agencies, NGOs, and trade associations to:

- Discuss the competitive issues companies face, and understand if energy plays a key role in those issues
- Identify and prioritize strategies that will help industry better manage energy in the future

Companies Registered:

- AURI, Consulate General of Canada, Fresh Energy, Gray Plant Moody, Great Plains Institute, Hormel Foods, Institute for Industrial Productivity, ISG, Leo A. Daly, Midwest Food Processors Association, Missouri River Energy Services, Minnesota AgriGrowth Council, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program, Pearson, Rochester Public Utilities, Franklin Energy, SHE, Seneca Foods, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Tandem Products, US Senator Al Franken, Sergio Dias Consulting



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Key topics and questions discussed:

1. The role that energy plays in maintaining your competitiveness now – how are you managing energy today. Topics can include: energy efficiency, renewable energy, demand response, combined heat and power, or other technologies.
2. Barriers to improve how you manage energy – what is stopping your company from doing more now? What is not working?
3. Future opportunities for you to manage energy – what technologies or approaches are coming that you could capitalize on?
4. Future barriers to how you manage energy – what things are coming that could stop you from better managing energy?
5. Recommended statewide strategies – what strategies are the highest priorities to help Minnesota’s industry better manage energy?

Recommendations from the Workshop:

(the numbers in parentheses show how many “dots” that recommendation received)

Solution Focus

1. Create a “Resource Hub” (26)
 - a. Create a central resource for industrial energy efficiency information that provides access to:
 - i. Existing support (training, financing, incentives, grants, programs, whom to contact)
 - ii. Existing tools
 - iii. Existing information (case studies, success stories, technical information, etc.)
 - b. Establish a single contact for guidance and hand-holding that can visit a facility, make overall efficiency recommendations, and provide further guidance and information.
 - c. Provide Peer-to-Peer Networks that can share best practices and information as well as strengthen industry connections.
 - d. Provide tailored messaging (energy efficiency is good for business) and use existing connections.
 - e. Partner with trade associations to provide tailored messaging.
2. Develop or Improve Technical Training and Employee Involvement (18)
 - a. Use experts to create site-based training that is focused on shop floor operators, including training on employee involvement.
 - b. Ensure availability of a wide base of technical training, supplement that training with details on how to implement the training in a facility.

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- c. Ensure there are CHP Technical Trainings for installers & maintenance (OTM).
3. Develop a “Technology Showcase” (15)
 - a. Create a resource or venue for sharing information on emerging technologies (such as CHP, LEDs) that is developed specifically for industry. This could include an “Energy Vendor Showcase” where experts and manufacturers could show their technologies.

Financing Focus

1. Financing Assistance (11)
 - a. Develop additional financing programs, or better promote or synthesize existing financing programs, to assist industry with implementing energy efficient management strategies that have a longer payback period. Current commercial and industrial customer programs offer financing assistance for technologies that have a shorter payback period / ROI.
 - b. Examine financing options that could include low interest loans, grants, rebates, or system process improvement audits.

Policy Focus

1. Effectiveness of Policy (11)
 - a. Take a comprehensive look at Minnesota’s energy policy framework, including net metering, energy efficiency as a resource, and the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).
 - b. Review whether the current framework is effective in meeting the needs of the diverse industrial and commercial sectors.
2. Changes to CIP (10)
 - a. Encourage more credit for non-kWh.
 - b. Acknowledge the value of audits and demand reduction.
3. Changes to Permitting Requirements for Large Energy Facilities (4)
 - a. Amend the state’s greenhouse gas offset requirements to exempt cogeneration projects larger than 50 megawatts (216H.03).