

BEGGING FOR INNOVATED IMPROVEMENTS

ABOUT NPIC. NPIC of Richardson, Texas, is an industry leader in pet treats. Since 1996, NPIC has been manufacturing high-quality, nutritious and functional products to ensure the wellness, happiness and longevity of all pets. They accomplish this through ongoing innovation in all aspects of their business, from product development to consumer education to ensuring the continued growth and enrichment of their employees.

THE CHALLENGE. As part of a pollution prevention grant providing onsite assistance to food and beverage manufacturers, TMAC, part of the MEP National Network™, reached out to NPIC to see if they were interested in receiving assistance to provide training to their staff on how to identify opportunities to reduce waste throughout their facility.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. TMAC staff met with NPIC Executive Vice President Josh Liu and toured their Plano, Texas location to gain a better understanding of their operations. TMAC returned and provided 3 days of onsite training working with a cross-functional team from NPIC. The team was introduced to the concepts of lean manufacturing and spent some time talking about adding value for their customer. The classroom training continued on day 2 with the introduction on how to identify and calculate savings and reductions by looking for energy and environmental opportunities. The group quickly recognized that the hand washing sinks on the production floor were using a large amount of water every time an employee washed their hands. The team took several videos and determined that each employee was using at least 20 ounces of water each time they washed their hands, over 150 gallons a day. NPIC installed low flow nozzles to each of the 8 faucets, which will now save over 30,000 of gallons of water each year. Next, the team observed an opportunity to separate cardboard from their solid waste collection. NPIC is now adding a cardboard compactor and bailer which will recycle 2.4 tons of cardboard and prevent future disposal of cardboard to the landfill. TMAC also used a thermal camera to help the team see how heat is escaping from their injection molding machines. NPIC is now working to install additional heat shielding around their heating coils to help reduce heat loss and maintain a consistent injection temperature to reduce rejects. Finally, the team identified opportunities to reduce compressed air consumption by repairing leaks and adjusting compressor settings to better match the actual demands of their equipment. These improvements will reduce energy consumption by 69,000 kWh annually and will reduce energy costs by more than \$5,800 annually.

"TMAC has helped us train our team to see not just lean wastes, but wastes of all kinds. This type of integrated approach to identifying improvement opportunities supports NPIC's ongoing efforts to embrace innovation to find new ways to improve our operations. This project helped our team find new ways to improve our commitment to environmental sustainability as we strive to ensure that pet owners around the world have the healthiest and happiest pets."

-Josh Liu, Executive Vice President

RESULTS



122,000 kWh electricity reduction



Reduced water consumption by 83,000 gallons/yr



26.6 MTCO₂e Reductions



4,800 lbs solid waste diverted from landfill

CONTACT US



7300 Jack Newell Boulevard
South
Fort Worth, TX 76118



(800)625-4876



www.tmac.org

