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ProBusS Presents
News about skilled trades, maintenance, and manufacturing

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Preventive Maintenance = Big Savings

It's a fact: most manufacturing operations can benefit from a good planned program of maintenance for plant and equipment. Many Maintenance managers implement PM programs, which usually include monitoring, lubrication, cleaning, adjustments, and minor part replacement, to extend the life of the equipment and facilities. But another big benefit of PM is cost savings.

How much can your operation save with PM? It depends on your facility and equipment, of course. But three real world examples, taken from public information sources, might give you an idea:

J.R. Simplot, a food processing and agricultural company, wanted to increase the life of their truck diesel engines. The engine OEM suggested rebuilds every 15,000 operating hours. Simplot knew that poor lubrication management caused most engine failures, and initiated a PM program. Their approach included **upgraded engine lubricants and filters, long-life coolant, oil analysis, keep-full systems, and regular inspections**. The result: engine life went from an average of 13,075 hours to over 18,000 hours between rebuilds, a 37% increase. Rebuild costs went from \$8.26 to \$5.68 per operating hour, an **annual cost savings of over \$15,000**, which went right into operating profit.



At paper and pulp mill Miller Western, the maintenance department wanted to routinely monitor equipment so they could schedule downtime and order supplies just-in-time, before failure occurred. They implemented **vibration and oil analysis systems** in one of their mills, which lead to off-line filtration of oil and condition-based machine monitoring. Over five years, their program **reduced lubrication costs by 12%, or \$10,000**. Solid grease use was cut in half, and liquid lubricant consumption went from 57,000 liters to 32,000 liters in just two years. They no longer use unscheduled down time for oil changes, and ISO cleanliness targets are consistently met or exceeded.

California-based power plant operator and service provider Calpine focused on avoiding downtime for its electricity generating plants. At one plant, the average downtime costs \$11,000 an hour. To reduce forced outages and streamline maintenance and repair costs, Calpine implemented a predictive maintenance program that included **condition monitoring of equipment, including motor, lubrication and vibration analyses**. In just six months, the company's program helped avoid downtime and repair costs exceeding \$1 million. The following year, **cost avoidance exceeded \$1.5 million**.

These examples might be different in scale from your operation, but they demonstrate a fact about PM: it can identify and correct potential problems before they happen. It can allow the Maintenance staff to plan and time equipment repair and replacement, and avoid production downtime. Ultimately, PM can save you money.

This company case study information comes from Maintenance World, an excellent source for information about maintenance engineering, preventive maintenance, and planning and scheduling maintenance. Check it out on the web: www.maintenanceworld.com

And if you're interested in how a PM program can help your operation, contact us at ProBusS.

How much can you save by changing a light bulb?

Sounds like the start of an old joke, but it's not. Here's what happened. A client called us a while back and asked if we could change all the light bulbs in one of their warehouses. Naturally, we said yes, because in addition to skilled trades work we handle maintenance tasks for many of our clients.

Changing light bulbs seems like a pretty mundane task, sure. But it's in simple, day-to-day stuff where we often find big efficiencies and cost savings for our clients. And in this economy, every company wants to find both.



Take those light bulbs, for example. In the case of our client's warehouse, they were already using florescent light bulbs instead of incandescents, which are cheaper initially but more expensive to operate over time. But just about every operation we walk into could benefit for reexamining their lighting somewhere in their operation: in the plant, storeroom, parts department, or in the office.

How much can changing a light bulb save? Replace just one 60 watt incandescent with a compact florescent bulb (CFL), and you'll save \$30 over the life of that bulb. Depending on what you pay for electricity, you could save even more.

We're not trying to get everyone to switch to CFLs; we're trying to help our clients save money and get the best, most productive lighting for their operation. In some cases, incandescent or LED lighting is a better choice than a CFL. Helping our client decide is part of what we do at ProBusS.

Plus, we're more than happy to change the light bulbs.



*Skilled trades professionals
-on site, on demand*

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