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ProBusS Presents

News about skilled trades, maintenance, and manufacturing

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New ways to cut your electrical bill -part 2

Industrial **electricity prices jumped 10%** last year. No wonder every maintenance and manufacturing manager we know is looking for ways to cut electrical use without reducing productivity.

Recently we talked about how preventive maintenance and things like more efficient lighting and occupancy sensors can help slow those spinning kilowatt dials. Today we offer another idea for cutting power bills: new technology applied to a common electrical component.

Frequency changers have been used in industrial applications for some time. They are a good way to control the speed and torque of AC motors in fans, pumps, conveyors, augers, and other industrial applications. The **big advantage of frequency changers is energy savings.**

Let's take a motor on a conveyor line. A motor running at no load still uses power, even if it's not the full amperage shown on the nameplate. It's still using electricity -and you're still paying for it.



A frequency changer matches the speed and electrical use of the motor to the job it has to do. In the past, this required various belts and pulleys, or a gear box. New frequency controllers do that job without all that extra equipment and the work required to set it up.



They also can **take single phase power and convert it to three phase power**, as well as control the motor's speed. So in many applications you can use less expensive three phase motors.

Can frequency changers help minimize your monthly electric bill? Most likely. Call us and we'll do a **quick walk-through of your operation at no charge**, and let you know if frequency changers can help you save on ever-increasing utility costs.

Former client becomes ProBusS project manager

Roger Muma's first machine repair most likely was to a piece of farm equipment. Growing up on his parents' fruit farm in Casnovia, a half-hour northwest of Grand Rapids, **Roger started driving a tractor when he was six**. As a boy he worked on the farm, learning from his Dad the basics of machine repair. "There's always some machine that needs to be fixed on a farm," he says. "Tractors, sprayers, irrigation equipment, you name it." It was a great learning experience, soon followed by formal training in electrical work.



By the time he was in his 20s, Roger was on staff at Nicholas Plastics. He moved through various jobs of progressively more responsibility, eventually **taking charge of all maintenance for the company**. "That's how I met Jim Watrous. I hired ProBusS skilled tradesmen, and they did a number of projects for us. We were so pleased with the work we provided a testimonial for the company -it's still in the ProBusS brochure."

The plastics company was heavily dependent on the auto companies, and as that industry's business declined, so did the company. (The Allendale plant closing was announced in February.)

The plastic industry's loss became a ProBusS gain when Roger joined the company in 2008, bringing to the staff **three decades of experience in manufacturing, maintenance, and production management**. As a project manager, Roger now brings his extensive skills to bear for ProBusS clients in various industries, including, of course, plastics companies.

Roger and his wife live in Casnovia, a few hundred yards from the farm where he grew up.



*Skilled trades professionals
-on site, on demand*

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