

LEKOS DYE AND FINISHING, INC. A Colorful Example of Energy and Process Efficiency!



If you own a colorful sweater or love the feel of your oh-so-soft sheets, you may have experienced the work of Lekos Dye and Finishing. Lekos Dye and Finishing, founded in 1994 and located in Rancho Dominguez, CA, is a company that supplies dyed and finished fabrics to the textile industry. They create the bright colors you see in your clothes and apply finishes such as softeners that result in your luxuriously soft sheets. While many manufacturers' finished goods inventory consists of parts or processed material, primarily in shades of grey, Lekos' stock resembles a rainbow!

Lekos Dye and Finishing, like many companies, experienced a sales downturn during the recent recession. In order to cope with decreased revenues, retain valued employees and maintain the high level of quality their customers had grown to expect, they focused their efforts on the synthetic fabric dyeing process. This is a niche market in the textile industry with significant opportunity for growth, but characterized by tight profit margins.

The dyeing and finishing operations require high levels of electricity, gas and water. The material

is washed and dyed, finishes are applied to customer specifications, and is dried. Utility costs comprised 20% of the company's budget prior to start of the CMTC project. As Daniel Lee, General Manager of Lekos Dye and Finishing, stated, "This was considered a cost of doing business."

Mr. Lee attended an E3 Program presentation, where he learned the details of the E3 effort. **E3** stands for **Energy, Environment and Economics**. The E3 program is a collaborative effort between CMTC, local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices, and local wastewater and utility providers. The program's goal is to identify opportunities for companies to incorporate sustainable business practices into their operations and realize cost savings as a result.

"CMTC and the E3 Technical Review team provided us with the tools to reduce utilities expenses. The legwork and coordination provided by CMTC were key to the project's success and helped us to rigorously implement several of the recommendations from the assessment."

*-Daniel Lee
General Manager*

CMTC and the E3 partners conducted a comprehensive assessment of Lekos' operations, addressing each of the three program pillars. Local utility providers collected and analyzed the company's historical **energy**

usage. They provided recommendations for ongoing cost reductions, including the use of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's). Installation and use of this equipment has resulted in a \$10,000 monthly savings in utility costs!



The local EPA office and municipal water district reviewed water usage and did a facility walk through to quantify Lekos' **environmental** impact. This team suggested ways for Lekos to improve and capitalize on its recycling efforts. They also recommended equipment upgrades to reduce maintenance costs and improve operational efficiency.

CMTC conducted a Worker Safety Analysis to identify ways for Lekos to create a safer working environment for its employees. In addition, Lean Manufacturing techniques were used to create current and future state value stream maps. The action plan to address current state process inefficiencies has been a valuable improvement resource for Lekos Dye and Finishing. Inventory management procedures have been revised as a result of the mapping activity. Prior to the E3 project, it took company employees an hour to find material, resulting in process and shipment delays. This process now takes 10 minutes!

CMTC used an assessment tool to identify the **economic** impact of implementing the recommendations from the E3 assessment. The company has not only realized significant utility cost savings and productivity gains from participating in the E3 process, production changes also resulted in less emissions. This pleased the company's neighboring residents!

Lekos Dye and Finishing is indeed a colorful example of energy and process efficiency!

FEATURED CUSTOMER

Lekos Dye and Finishing, Inc.
3131 E. Harcourt Street
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221
Tel: (310) 763-5699
www.lekosdye.com