



Energy
Efficiency
Program

Metal-Matic saves energy with a furnace burner replacement



Metal-Matic saves \$100,000 in project costs



Project description:
Industrial furnace burner replacements



Nicor Gas incentives:
\$100,000



Energy savings:
250,262 therms saved per year

METAL-MATIC, INC., with locations in Minneapolis, MN and Bedford Park, IL, is a world leader in the production of welded and drawn over mandrel (DOM) carbon steel tubing for standard and specialty applications. Their carbon steel tubing is used throughout the world in a wide variety of applications, like automotive, appliances and agriculture.

Project team

- Mike Malwitz, Plant Engineer, Metal-Matic, Inc.
- Graham Munson, Marshall W. Nelson & Associates
- Tom Bliss, President, Metal-Matic, Inc.



The project

Metal-Matic, Inc. is a manufacturer of steel tubing, which is roll-formed, welded into tubing and then annealed at 1700°F. The facility has two annealing furnaces, which run continuously. The existing burners were hard to keep adjusted correctly, causing sooting problems with the radiant tubes. This severely affected the quality of their product and created a lot of downtime and lost production. The project consisted of changing 35 existing U-shaped burners on the larger of the two furnaces to high-efficiency, straight burners. Metal-Matic worked with the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program to receive a rebate to help fund the replacement.

“It wasn’t difficult at all to work with Nicor Gas. It was really painless.”

— Mike Malwitz,
Metal-Matic, Inc.

How Metal-Matic, Inc. made it happen

Mike Malwitz, Plant Engineer for Metal-Matic, Inc., had never been able to justify the high cost of the burner replacement, although he knew it would help with the soot issues and decrease the company’s energy costs. However, because of the rebates from the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program and the payback on Metal-Matic’s utility bills from the efficiency upgrade, he knew it would be much more appealing to corporate. He was right—the burner replacement was approved once the rebate was part of the calculation.



The experience

Metal-Matic, Inc. received a \$100,000 incentive from Nicor Gas, as well as support throughout the process, from pre-approval of the project, through project installation to final incentive approval. “Having the outreach team there to work through the process really helped me out,” said Malwitz. As a result of the burner replacement, Metal-Matic, Inc. has cut back their gas usage more than they predicted, have increased production and don’t have any more unplanned down time.

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