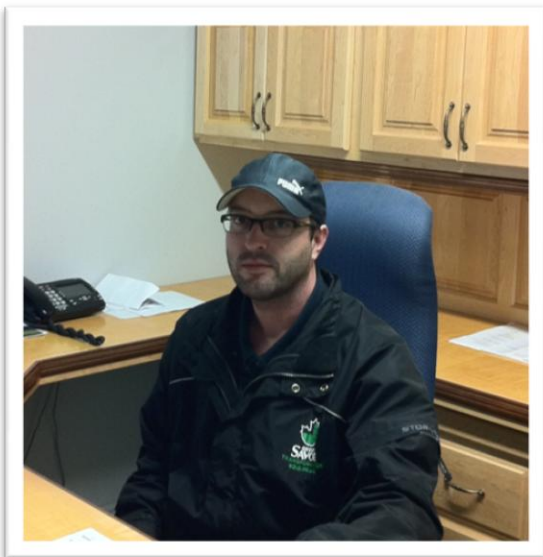




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Tobby Leclair-Industrial Energy Efficiency champion winner

Tobby Leclair, Director of Maintenance Services at Groupe Savoie, a hardwood products manufacturing company based out of Saint-Quentin, has advocated for energy efficiency and displayed leadership and innovation in planning, project management, energy management and employee engagement, earning him the title of this year's Industrial Energy Efficiency Champion.



Each year Group Savoie's sawmills produce 175,000 m³ of hardwood lumber and over two million pallets; which presented an incredible opportunity to improve energy efficiency in production.

Since early 2009, Tobby has been responsible for coordinating the relationship between Groupe Savoie and Efficiency NB and implementing an Energy Management Information System (EMIS).

Tobby initiated an energy audit at the plant in order to gather all information needed to detail the preliminary costs and benefits to implementing EMIS for management at Groupe Savoie, justifying the implementation to management with projected savings and the estimated payback period.

EMIS implementation included the installation of meters and data capture systems, analytical tools, production of reports and support for decision making, training and professional development sessions and incorporation of EMIS with the organization's management systems.

Despite planned production outages and the simultaneous rollout of a new wood pellet production division, Tobby was able to move EMIS implementation forward, implementing the system in the expected time frame as well as under budget.

Thanks to the energy management system, Groupe Savoie is now able to measure energy with real-time readings based on actual consumption, making it possible to target the departments where monthly peak demand originates, lowering the plant's monthly energy bills. Through EMIS the plant is now able to understand what causes their highest energy demand and costs, making it possible to justify investments in energy conservation measures, with tangible energy data illustrating the areas for potential energy reduction.

Since implementing EMIS, Groupe Savoie has been able to target plant upgrades including: adjusting compressed air pressure depending on plant needs, adding a condenser bank to correct overcharges for peak demand, and a power



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supply interrupter for one of the plant's grinders. "We are very proud to receive this prize. We've been working hard for the past two years," says Toby.

Implementing EMIS at Groupe Savoie has resulted in annual energy savings of \$124, 524 at the Saint-Quentin plant, resulting in a payback period of 1.25 years and great improvement of the site's energy performance.

"The program is a great one, it was very well received here and it was a pleasure to work with the team at Efficiency NB," says Toby, who is looking forward to working further with Efficiency NB on a pilot project at one of Groupe Savoie's smaller plants to evaluate potential for an EMIS program in the small and medium industry sector.

Toby's commitment to energy efficiency at the Saint-Quentin plant has filtered throughout the plant and into the employee and management work culture, making managers and employees aware of the importance of being committed to better energy management.



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