

BUSINESS ENERGY SOLUTIONS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CASE STUDY:

O&G Industries

Torrington, CT



Founded in 1923, O&G is Connecticut's largest privately held construction company and one of the Northeast's leading providers of construction services and products. Headquartered in Torrington, the company owns and operates a network of asphalt plants, ready mix concrete plants, quarries, and mason supply yards located mostly in the western half of Connecticut. O&G's Materials Division offers dozens of standard and specialty asphalt and concrete mixes to commercial, industrial and municipal customers. The company's resume includes everything from support for some of the largest and most complex highway paving and bridge projects in the state to big-box store parking lots and residential foundations and driveways.

"It's been a team effort with a lot of learning on both sides. Working with Eversource, we've found a receptive and engaged partner who was able to connect us with the experts. Together, we've been able to realize the possibilities and stay focused on the future,"

- Paul Balavender,
O&G's General Counsel

CHALLENGE

The O&G team has a longstanding environmental commitment. O&G's Facilities Manager Tony Blanchard and its General Counsel Paul Balavender set out to increase productivity and efficiency across the organization and focus on specialized solutions and green initiatives to reduce energy use while increasing productivity across its footprint. The team needed to get to work, and they couldn't do it alone.

SOLUTION

Eversource has partnered with the O&G team to complete several lighting and equipment updates at a few locations. Knowing Tony and Paul were considering larger projects, Eversource Energy Efficiency Consultant Jim Racca invited them to a gathering of commercial customers and trade allies. During the event, Jim introduced O&G to experts at Loureiro Engineering, a firm with a proven track record of assisting industrial companies with multi-site energy efficiency strategies. Before the close of the event, Jim scheduled a follow-up meeting. Over the next few months, the team established the groundwork to address and improve energy use at its locations in Stamford, Beacon Falls, Harwinton, New Milford, Danbury, Southbury, and Waterbury.

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Together with Eversource, O&G was able to access the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and outside engineering expertise to help devise a comprehensive plan to reduce their energy use.

ENERGY USE ASSESSMENT

The first step was a tour and Energy Use Assessment of O&G's Beacon Falls and Harwinton/Torrington locations.

With the Energy Use Assessment report in hand, Eversource verified several energy efficiency measures, estimated anticipated savings, and determined the financial incentives available for potential projects. Eversource worked in partnership with Loureiro to present O&G with a comprehensive approach. O&G reviewed the proposal and gave the green light to several projects.

STANDARD AND UNIQUE PROJECTS

The projects included standard updates such as lighting, insulation, and air leak repairs. To help O&G optimize its energy use, the team also needed to tackle complex measures unique to O&G's business, namely its oil-heated liquid asphalt system.

Eversource worked with Loureiro and O&G to develop custom measures to optimize the energy use. The largest project investments involved asphalt operations. At multiple facilities, the team set out to ensure the tanks and dryer burner controls were as efficient as possible. New asphalt storage tanks with additional insulation and a more efficient heating system were purchased. New burner and fan controls with new variable frequency drives, efficient motors and damper controls were installed to improve the asphalt drying and mix process. Also, the existing pipelines were insulated to ensure reduced energy usage and greater total energy savings.

At O&G's full-service masonry facility in Beacon Falls, where stone and tile fabrication is completed for major commercial projects throughout New England, outdated lighting fixtures were replaced with new LEDs and system controls.

The work with Eversource has paved the way to success and established a foundation for future activities. The O&G team recently submitted the first two applications in the country pursuant to an ENERGY STAR® for Asphalt Plants pilot program sponsored by the National Asphalt Pavement Association and the EPA. At the Stamford and New Milford plants, and likely others in the future, O&G is committing to reduce energy use by at least 10%.

KEY METRICS

- At O&G's Harwinton facility, the energy efficiency work is expected to reduce O&G's annual electric use by almost 12% and gas consumption by more than 30%
- The improvements and updates O&G completed with Eversource at multiple plants will cut lifetime carbon emissions by more than 28,000 tons, the equivalent of removing more than 5,600 cars from the road or powering 3,000 homes for a year.
- The 3,762-panel array is coupled with a 280-kilowatt (kW) Energy Storage System (ESS) in Southbury that will help to augment supply during peak demand cycles and will produce the energy equivalent necessary to power 150 homes. As part of its commitment to sustainable and energy-saving initiatives and collaboration with Eversource, O&G also added three solar installations: a 1.3-megawatt (MW) solar array at its quarry in Southbury, plus rooftops at the company's rooftops of the company's fleet maintenance facility in Torrington and mason supply showroom in Bridgeport.

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