Efficiency projects save money, help environment

As the world’s leading independent supplier of X-ray tubes and digital image detectors for filmless X-rays, Varian Medical Systems in Salt Lake City does things in a big way. That includes finding ways to cut energy costs while being an exemplary steward of the environment.

Toward those efforts, Varian teamed with experts from Rocky Mountain Power’s wattsmart® Business program and together they scoured Varian’s 350,000 sq. ft. facility to find ways to trim energy use and costs.

“ When we started, our motivation was cost savings, but over time the environmental aspects have become more and more important.”

Doug Carlisle
Facilities and services manager
Varian Medical Systems

The projects

Using the technical services from the wattsmart Business program, Rocky Mountain Power helped Varian identify energy efficiency opportunities – one project at a time – starting with a lighting retrofit. Varian took the information along with the incentive offer and implemented the recommendations. Meanwhile Rocky Mountain Power provided the analysis for the next set of energy-saving opportunities.

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Varian installed variable frequency drives (VFD) on the fan motors of four cooling towers. The fans operate more efficiently if their speed is changed to match process needs instead of periodically being turned on and off. During a facility expansion, more efficiency and cost-savings were realized when Varian chose T8 fluorescent lighting with electronic ballasts for their new maintenance, receiving and office areas.

The collaboration with Rocky Mountain Power has been so successful, Varian has integrated energy efficiency into its business plan. The X-ray products manufacturer includes a specific allocation for energy efficiency improvement projects in their budget each year. Varian is now moving to the next generation of lighting projects and further improving on the upgrades they completed when they first began working with Rocky Mountain Power.

**Savings**

Varian Medical Systems’ energy efficiency projects are saving more than 4.4 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. That translates into $294,000 in annual savings. What’s more, Varian has received more than $457,000 in Rocky Mountain Power incentives for lighting, heating/cooling and other upgrades at its plant site.

**Sustainability commitment**

To demonstrate their commitment to the environment, Varian is investing their dollars saved from energy efficiency upgrades in Rocky Mountain Power’s Blue Sky™ renewable energy program. Varian’s participation in the Blue Sky program is avoiding 1,260 tons of carbon dioxide annually, which has environmental benefits equivalent to not driving a car more than 2.5 million miles.

**About wattsmart Business**

Rocky Mountain Power offers a variety of options to help our commercial, industrial and agricultural customers in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming build energy efficiency into new construction and retrofit projects. The wattsmart Business program offer technical expertise and cash incentives for lighting, HVAC, industrial processes and more.

**Let us help you get started**

For more information on how we can assist your facility:

- Visit [wattsmart.com](http://wattsmart.com) and inquire online.
- Email [wattsmartbusiness@rockymountainpower.net](mailto:wattsmartbusiness@rockymountainpower.net).
- Call our energy experts toll free at 1-800-222-4335.

Because there are requirements to qualify for an incentive, it is important to call us **before** you start your project.