

Business Energy Success Story

Custom-Pak – Clinton and DeWitt, Iowa

Background:

Custom-Pak pioneered the concept of engineered blowmolding, and today designs and produces a colorful array of tough, functional and attractive consumer products and industrial parts.

Needless to say, these processes require a lot of energy.

“About a year ago, Custom-Pak learned that it had power factor problems,” said Stephen Schultz, Alliant Energy account manager. “The plant’s power factor, which should have been near 100 percent, was only at 85 percent.”



Companies that have a lot of motor loads can have power factor problems. And as a result, they must pay a penalty to their utility, Schultz explained.



Alliant Energy solution:

“We met with Custom-Pak’s management and offered to do power quality monitoring to verify the power factor and harmonics,” Schultz said.

Mike O’Laughlin, an energy applications consultant with Alliant Energy, did all the monitoring and developed the report and proposal to correct the power factor.

Results:

“Once we located the problems, we could recommend a capacitor sized to get them back to nearly 100 percent power factor,” said Schultz. “We suggested installing 800 kVAR and 600 kVAR capacitor units.”

Recommendation:

“Upgrading the capacitor banks not only improved our power quality,” said Jeff Anderson, Custom-Pak general manager, it’s saving our company thousands of dollars in penalties while helping us use energy more efficiently and responsibly.”

Learn more:

[PowerCure power quality engineering](#)