

Rainier Cold Storage

reduces energy consumption, costs by more than 60%



Customer Need

In the spring of 2006 Rainier Cold Storage of Seattle, Washington, launched an ambitious energy efficiency campaign including upgrades to their mechanical system and the addition of variable frequency drives. The company's primary goal was to reduce the facility's energy consumption and its monthly energy costs, which averaged \$15,000 at the time. They recognized they needed an advanced control system to maximize their ROI, and chose Logix as their controls system vendor to reduce energy consumption.

Logix Solution

Using an integrated control system approach, Logix provided Rainier Cold Storage with a comprehensive solution to maximize the benefits of Rainier's new refrigeration equipment while integrating it with their existing equipment. The system was commissioned in February 2007.

Business Value Delivered

After the commissioning of its Logix system, Rainier Cold Storage saw an immediate drop in its energy consumption. Rainier's facility had been consuming over 260,000 kWh on average each month. In the months and years following its installation, the Logix system helped to reduce the facility's energy consumption and costs by well over 60%. In January 2009, Rainier's facility used only 76,560 kWh, and its monthly bill was less than \$3,500.

Temperature Control Precision and Reduced Energy Consumption

After commissioning its Logix system, Rainier Cold Storage saw an immediate drop in its energy consumption.

"Hands down, Logix was just a way better system than the competition... [during design and installation] customer service was excellent... Logix was always right on it."

Chris Conlan, Chief Engineer
Rainier Cold Storage



Trend Logs Help Fine Tune Operations

In the seven years since the Logix system was installed, Rainier has used the trend logging and management software to continually fine tune its operation. Ongoing optimization has permitted Rainier to achieve a continuous decrease in kWh hours used and energy costs, resulting in its lowest monthly bill to date.

The Story Behind the Logix Solution

Rainier Cold Storage has been providing the highest standard in customer service for well over 60 years. With over 60,000 square feet in its Seattle facility, Rainier is committed to providing its superior refrigeration services at reasonable rates, which means the company is constantly searching to improve the efficiency of its operations.

As part of its effort to continually improve customer service while keeping costs down, Rainier Cold Storage upgraded its facility in 2007 to maximize its energy efficiency. The company determined that the centerpiece of its efficiency campaign would be a new refrigeration controls system. After considering many alternatives, Rainier Cold Storage chose a Logix controls solution. "Hands down, Logix was just a way better system than the competition," says Chris Conlan, Rainier's chief engineer.

Logix Provides Tailor-Fit Customization

During the design and installation of the Logix system at Rainier, Conlan says he was most impressed with its tailor-fit customization, along with the superior customer service Logix provided. "Customer service was excellent... Logix was always right on it," he says. Following its installation, and before its final commissioning and operational launch, the Logix control system was tested to extremes. The system passed every test with flying colors.

Realized Benefits

Rainier Cold Storage started realizing significant benefits within the first month of the Logix system installation. In the seven years since the Logix system was installed, Rainier has used the system's trend logging (performance analysis) and management software to continually fine tune its operation. This ongoing optimization has permitted Rainier to achieve a continuous decrease in kWh hours used and energy costs, resulting in its lowest monthly bill to date.

Having offered limited amounts of rebates based on energy consumed, local utility provider Seattle City Light was somewhat amazed to discover that the Logix refrigeration controls system was the cause for the steep drop in electricity consumption. In 2008 Rainier Cold Storage received the Seattle City Light "Power Player" Award for facility refrigeration upgrades resulting in 65% reduction in energy usage. This annual recognition, sponsored by Seattle City Light and hosted by the Seattle Seahawks, honors customers, trade allies, and conservation champions who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to energy efficiency.

As might be expected, Greg Moore, president of Rainier Cold Storage, is exceptionally pleased with these results "We have exceeded our expectations, thanks to your help," he recently wrote Logix. The company now features its Logix system on its website as a key advantage of its services, and Logix is proud to play a role in Rainer's continued success.