



BUSINESS CASE STUDY: WASHINGTON

Cowiche Growers

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BUSINESS

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Project overview

Cowiche Growers, a grower-owned cooperative that has packed and stored apples, pears and cherries in the Yakima Valley since 1923, initiated a Wattsmart[®] Business energy management project to optimize control setpoints on their refrigeration systems.

ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS

383,969 kWh

ANNUAL UTILITY COST SAVINGS

\$20,724

PACIFIC POWER INCENTIVE

\$9,500

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Wattsmart Business program provided energy engineering to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, save utility costs, and receive incentives from Pacific Power. Cowiche Growers implemented the suggested control strategies without having to purchase new equipment. This energy management project was carefully designed to fit their refrigeration needs without affecting product quality in their fruit storage spaces.

The project included:

- Reprogram evaporator fan speed setpoints
- Optimize condensing pressure and suction pressure
- Optimize VFD internal setpoints
- Reduce excess evaporator defrost time, boost pump-down duration
- Reduce penthouse space heater temperature setpoints
- Enable evaporator fan cycling where appropriate

“This project cost us no money and was an easy way to get some energy savings. It was a slam dunk and a win for everyone.”

Jose Garcia, Operations Manager



Small adjustments, big impact

Jose Garcia, Operations Manager for Cowiche Growers, is always looking for opportunities to improve efficiency and save money, and he's found a valuable partner in Pacific Power. In 2023, he started the 16th project through the Wattsmart Business program, this time focusing on optimizing control setpoints on refrigeration systems.

“Doing this efficiency tune-up was a no-brainer,” says Garcia. “We were really just assessing our energy usage and changing setpoints. It's such an easy way to get some energy savings.”

The project only required a Wattsmart engineer to complete a half-day, in-person facility assessment and a few follow-up phone calls to properly diagnose the opportunity and recommend adjustments. No new equipment or added expense was required for Cowiche Growers.



Jose Garcia, Operations Manager



TOTAL WATTSMART BUSINESS IMPACT

Cowiche Growers has completed 16 projects over a 10-year period, resulting in:

- 2,944,659 kWh saved annually
- \$150,000+ in energy cost savings each year
- \$455,000 in incentives



An ongoing partnership

Wattsmart Business continues to play a significant role in operational efficiency for Cowiche Growers. In a 10-year period, the cooperative has worked with Pacific Power to complete 16 projects, which yield a total of 2,944,659 kWh of savings annually. That's enough to power approximately 200 homes in the Yakima area for an entire year.

"Not only are we gaining efficiency and saving money, but we're also meeting the changing demands of our customers," says Garcia. "Many of our buyers have new sustainability requirements, and our upgrades have helped us make sure we're meeting those standards."

With six additional energy savings projects in the works for Cowiche Growers, Garcia highly recommends the Wattsmart Business program to any company looking to improve efficiency and identify opportunities for savings.

"It doesn't hurt to have Pacific Power send someone to take a look at your business and figure out ways to save power," says Garcia. "There's no risk, no cost and no obligation for the assessment process. We've built good relationships with our Wattsmart Business providers, and they really understand our business."

About Wattsmart Business

Pacific Power's Wattsmart Business program makes it easy for small, mid-size and large businesses to save energy, money and time when making important upgrades to their facilities. Services include providing energy assessments and engineering to quantify energy savings and incentives. Many businesses receive incentives to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses and minimize cash-flow impacts.

Let us help you get started

For more information about how we can help your business:

- Visit BeWattsmart.com and inquire online.
- Email WattsmartBusiness@PacificPower.net.
- Call our energy experts toll free at **1-800-222-4335**.

There are some requirements to qualify for incentives, so it is important to call us **before** you start your project.

