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TTU Industrial Assessment Center Helping TN Industries Remain Competitive

The Tennessee Tech University-led Industrial Assessment Center has helped Tennessee industries reduce total electric demand by more than 72 Megawatts during its eight-year existence – an amount of power that’s equivalent to the output of a small nuclear reactor. Additionally, manufacturing industries in the region have documented more than \$4.5 million in implemented annualized energy savings.

The Tennessee 3-Star Industrial Assessment Center (TN 3-Star IAC) provides no-cost studies of manufacturing plants across TN and portions of GA, VA, NC, and AR. Engineering & Technology students under the direction of faculty from Tennessee Technological University, East Tennessee State University, and University of Memphis perform studies analyzing a plant’s energy, waste, and productivity issues. The Industrial Assessment Center Program is a national program sponsored by the US Department of Energy (DOE) with centers located at universities around the nation.

“We feel that this is a logical next step for Tennessee Tech,” said Kenneth Currie, director of Tennessee Tech’s Center for Manufacturing Research. “Tennessee is quickly becoming a leading industrial state, and TTU has partnered with area industries on many different levels. Helping advise industries on where they can reduce energy costs is something that makes sense for everyone involved.”

Since its inception in 2006, there have been 119 students trained in energy efficiency techniques, with 36 of those students recognized by DOE with a rigorous certification in the IAC program. The mission of the TN 3-Star IAC is to form a broad coalition of industry, non-profit, and government entities to create a systemic transformation of workforce development for industrial energy efficiency professionals.

Besides helping industries stay competitive from a cost standpoint, the TN 3-Star IAC has also eliminated more than 24,100 metric tons of atmospheric damaging greenhouse gases through energy efficiency recommendations.

For more information about the IAC program or to schedule an assessment contact Michelle Davis at (931) 372-6386 or mdavis@tntech.edu.

Last edited 2014.10.15 by Davis, Cynthia.