
CASE STUDY:

BSH Home Appliances

Location:	New Bern, N.C. (Craven County)
Industry:	Home appliance manufacturer
Pollution Prevention Application:	Water Use Reduction
Annual Savings:	896,000 gallons
Payback Period:	Not applicable
Contact:	Sam Phillips 252-636-4307

Background

BSH manufactures dishwashers, washers, dryers, cook tops, freestanding ranges, built-in ovens and hoods. It has increased production and lowered its water use. In water used per units produced 2006 compared to 2005, a nine percent reduction was reported and to date in 2007 compared to 2006 a five percent reduction per unit produced was reported.

Water Use Reduction Activities

As a first step, BSH checked the water usage of its parts washers and other water using processes to ensure minimal usage settings and controls were in place. Some water savings were realized.

Several water conservation projects were put in place in the range plant that helped with reducing water consumption. A water recycling system was installed to catch the parts washer final rinse tank overflow, treat it in an RO system, and plumbed it back to the washer for reuse. Several additional filters were added to the washer system to keep the water in the tanks cleaner longer reducing the frequency needed to dump and clean the tanks. A sludge holding tank was added in the wastewater treatment area along with some replumbing to make it easier to send the sludge to the filter press, thus reducing the time spent hosing down and rinsing the other treatment tanks.

Recently, an old parts washer in dishwashing was replaced with two smaller new parts washers which combined will use less water than the old one.

For the future projects, it is looking into recycling the water used in new washing machine testing.