



COOL PLANET PROJECT SUCCESS STORY: MERRICK ENGINEERING

INDUSTRY:

Manufacturing; Plastics

LOCATION:

Corona, CA (HQ)

WORKFORCE:

500 employees

GEOGRAPHIC PRESENCE:

*Manufacturing facilities in
CA, TX, WV*

ENERGY SAVINGS:

1,200,000 kWh

GHG EQUIVALENT:

*1,811 acres of carbon
sequestering pine forests*

Energy Savings Create Competitive Advantage

Merrick Engineering, Inc is one of the largest manufacturers of hangers, closet accessories and organizers in the United States. In addition to the plastics manufactured in the U.S., Merrick also supplies a comprehensive assortment of metal and wood hangers, organizers and accessories, making itself a “full line” supplier to the retail trade. Merrick’s customer base consists of the discount, home-center, variety, drug, grocery, warehouse and specialty order channels of trade in the United States and export markets.

Energy Management

With over 35 years in business, Merrick has undergone continual expansion and operational improvement while facing predictable challenges of rising energy costs. Merrick participated in Southern California Edison’s (SCE) cutting edge energy efficiency programs, which, most recently provided financial assistance in acquiring and installing two new injection molding machines. This innovative molding machinery allows Merrick to use less power than before while making a million coat hangers a day at their Corona plant — a significant improvement over the output of their old machinery.

Taking Action On Climate Change

Installing energy efficiency projects with SCE saved Merrick Engineering approximately 3.2 million kilowatt-hours annually - equivalent to removing 417 passenger vehicles from the road in that same year – and qualified Merrick to participate in the Cool Planet Project. One of the benefits of this energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions program is complimentary membership to The Climate Registry. The Registry has assisted Merrick in learning to measure, verify, and report their greenhouse gas emissions, helping them gain a better understanding of managing risks associated with future GHG constraints. Membership to The Registry also enabled Merrick to evaluate the GHG emissions impact of process and product changes and enables Merrick to calculate the carbon footprint of manufactured products.

Merrick Engineering is continually working to maintain an environmentally sound workplace. All three manufacturing facilities recycle 100% of their scrap plastic (polypropylene and polyethylene packaging) and cardboard/paper. The office space went paperless four years ago, keeping records electronically, and they’ve instituted a company-wide e-waste recycle program, offering to recycle and properly discard employees’ e-waste as well.

Action Rewarded

Merrick Engineering cut energy costs and boosted capacity at the same time. Working with Southern California Edison’s energy efficiency programs, Merrick increased production capacity by 21%, while simultaneously decreasing electricity consumption by 35%. The savings on electricity costs have accelerated the payback on their investment in improved infrastructure and helped Merrick gain a powerful competitive advantage through operational innovation.

“These energy efficiency projects save us money and energy - and significantly reduce our carbon footprint. Taking the extra step to report our greenhouse gas emissions is a critical measure in setting a positive example within our industry.”

*—Abraham Abdi, Merrick,
President*