Staying ahead of the curve is critical in any industry, so it’s important to get in front of rising operating costs, such as energy. The introduction of new manufacturing technologies offers opportunities to increase revenue by replacing equipment near the end of its life, upgrading equipment for improved efficiency, expanding your operation or rethinking your entire process.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help you trim operating costs and outpace the competition. We offer technical assistance and cash incentives on capital energy efficiency projects that can deliver significant energy savings and open the door to boosting overall productivity and product quality.

We take the burden off of you

Energy Trust contracts with industrial energy experts—called Program Delivery Contractors—who understand what works in your business and how to make the most of energy-saving opportunities. Energy Trust PDCs are located throughout Oregon so they understand your local economy and industries. We offer technical studies and services delivered at no cost to you by highly skilled engineers who are familiar with your industry.

The PDC for your industry and region can conduct a comprehensive scoping study to determine cost-effective approaches to improving your production efficiency. It doesn’t matter whether you have a specific project in mind or are exploring all possibilities, your PDC can adjust the parameters to meet your goals. The end product is a detailed technical analysis report that outlines estimated costs, savings and Energy Trust cash incentives. This detailed information takes the guesswork out of determining your return on investment from proposed capital projects and makes it easier to secure management approval.
Earn cash incentives of up to $1 million

Energy Trust pays cash incentives, per annual kilowatt hour or therm saved, based on the energy savings estimated contained in your technical study, for a wide range of equipment upgrades and process improvements that contribute to energy efficiency. Your incentive amount can help pay for projects involving:

• Process equipment or improvements
• Refrigeration or cold storage
• Compressed air
• Pumps, motors and drives
• Heating, ventilating and air conditioning
• Insulation
• Lighting and lighting controls

For custom process or equipment projects, we pay up to $0.25 per annual kilowatt hour or $2 per annual therm saved, up to a maximum of 50 percent of project costs or $499,999.* Have more than one project in mind? Our cash incentives for custom process or project equipment projects can go as high as $1 million per site, per year.

* Incentives for non-process equipment, such as lighting projects, are slightly less.

Take control of your energy costs. For more information contact us at production@energytrust.org or 1.866.368.7878.

ELKAY WOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY

Elkay Wood Products Company, which manufactures cabinetry, tapped into Energy Trust technical services and cash incentives before converting its cabinet finishing process to Nitrothermospray Technology. Compared to Elkay’s previous, conventional, compressed-air spraying technique, Nitrothermospray equipment reduced overspray and allowed the temperature of the infrared ovens used in product curing to be significantly lowered. As a result, Elkay cut energy use in its finish ovens by 72 percent. The company also reduced both material usage and volatile organic compound emissions by 25 percent, boosted capacity by 25 percent and ended up with a better-controlled process that enhanced product quality.

“Energy Trust’s up-front testing and data analysis helped us recognize Nitrothermospray as a viable project, and their cash incentives helped us overcome the funding challenge.” Tyler Kuenzi, manufacturing engineer, Elkay Wood Products Company.

MYERS CONTAINER, LLC

Myers Container, a top U.S. container reconditioning company, turned to Energy Trust while researching a major process change. For years, Myers cleaned reclaimed containers with sodium hydroxide (lye), which burns through skin and contaminates the environment if not handled properly. Myers was exploring replacing lye with a chemical innovation called OMNI—a new, non-hazardous cleaning agent made of synthetic acid and a non-solvent degreaser. Energy Trust arranged for a technical analysis study, including four months of testing while Myers’ facility continued to operate at full capacity. The analysis showed that Myers could lower its cleaning tank temperature by 20°F by transitioning to OMNI. With technical support and cash incentives from Energy Trust, Myers is now enjoying estimated annual water heating savings of $18,000, while also improving employee safety and reducing their environmental impact.