



# Mullinix Packages Upgrades Case Study

Indiana-based plastic packaging manufacturer receives \$148,488 rebate check from Indiana Michigan Power's Retro-Commissioning Lite Program

## Fort Wayne, IN

As a plastics manufacturer, Mullinix Packages must utilize a variety of production methods to create their unique line of food storage containers. Their impressive production capabilities means that energy expenses are a major part of their bottom line. In order to save money and improve performance, Mullinix reached out to Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) to help them assess the manufacturer's compressed air system. Once the potential savings were established, the partnership allowed Mullinix Packages to offset the cost of the efficiency upgrades and achieve their performance goals.

## Aims & Objectives

An Indiana Michigan Power-approved service provider's study of Mullinix's compressed air system revealed substantial leaks that created artificial demand, wasted air and increased Mullinix's energy costs. In order to appropriately upgrade the system and lower their energy costs, Mullinix installed 34 no-loss drain valves as well as a flow control valve to limit artificial demand. These updates successfully lowered the system pressure to 87 psi.

## Partnership

Mullinix Packages utilized the Retro-Commissioning Lite (RCxL) program to assess the performance of the energy equipment and improve the efficiency of the existing systems rather than replace them completely. The total capital investment of \$237,284 was offset by a \$148,488 rebate from Indiana Michigan Power, which allowed for a 1.2 year payback period. I&M continued to support the project by providing the necessary training on how to operate the equipment in order to achieve maximum results.

## Implementation

The improvements to the compressed air system saved Mullinix almost 2.8 million kWh per year while still allowing for increased production periods and larger profits. The no-loss drain valves and flow control valve also made a tremendous impact on the compression ratio. This significantly reduced the wear on the compressors themselves and extended the life of the equipment.

## Current Offerings

I&M continues to offer commercial and industrial custom incentives and prescriptive rebates through their Electric Ideas program. For more information visit: [www.electricideas.com/work](http://www.electricideas.com/work).

Incentive Received  
**\$148,488 Rebate**

Operation and Energy Savings  
**\$71,688 & 2,800,000 kWh Annually**

Payback Time  
**1.2 years**

**“ We were able to increase our facilities' air handling efficiency by 30% and with the incentives we received from I&M, we were able to offset the capital improvement associated with the installation. ”**

-Gene Gentili, CEO, Mullinix

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