



## CASE STUDY:

Uponor, Inc., Apple Valley, Minnesota

### Year Founded:

Its origins go back to 1620 as Wirsbo in Virsbo, Sweden; current corporate parent headquarters is Vantaa, Finland

### Operations:

24 hours / day, 7 days per week

Uponor, Inc., a Manufacturer's Alliance partner, has worked with Xcel Energy, CenterPoint Energy, and associated consultants for a number of years and continues to build on past successes, especially in the area of sustainability.

2015 is no different. The Uponor team partnered with S.E.S., Inc. for engineering and technical measurement support to identify and develop strategies for additional process improvements.

The Uponor team provided detailed operation and technical information to S.E.S., Inc. This information and further investigation led to controls upgrade opportunities, HVAC improvements, and an air compressor upgrade. S.E.S., Inc. maintained close communication to Xcel Energy to garner additional incentives and rebates making larger capital investments more attractive. Ultimately, the project provided the technical and financial justification to make changes needed to:

- a) Make tighter process control improvements
- b) Reduce the energy intensity on a per foot basis
- c) Improve equipment and process reliability

## FROM A DIRECTOR POINT OF VIEW – RUSTY CALLIER:

At Uponor we believe in the triple bottom line – people, planet, and profit – and operational excellence. One does not take away from the other but need to balance and blend in a way that our actions, while sustainable, make for better people process and provide a return on our investment.

Uponor has had many successes working with S.E.S., Inc. over the past two years. All highlight some great story of collaboration, research, evaluating, testing, and implementing changes. A few do stand out more than others.

Here are some successes:

- Air compressor upgrades have resulted in a 50% reduction of preventative maintenance (PM) costs
- Electric cost per unit of compressed air has been reduced
- Electric utility billing rate structure changes have resulted in substantial savings
- Ability to speed up extruders while maintaining the same rate of kilowatt-hour consumption

While this list is not all the great things we have been able to accomplish partnering with S.E.S., Inc., the list is a good representation of the type of relationship that has developed over the years. It is a lot to just keep up with growth and the daily grind of running a 24/7 operation. Having a trusted resource like S.E.S., Inc. in your corner to sniff out sustainability wins helps tremendously.

