



Get cash back when you eliminate leaks in your compressed air system.

Many commercial and industrial businesses are unknowingly letting money disappear into thin air. If your operation uses a compressed air system that leaks, your company is one of them.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that unchecked leaks in a compressed air system can account for a significant portion of energy use, often wasting as much as 20% to 30% of the compressor's output.

"When your compressed air systems leak, you end up paying for a lot of energy that isn't doing anything productive for your business," says Avista Account Executive Kim Casey.

Seventy percent of all manufacturing facilities in the United States have some form of compressed air system. Most of these systems provide compressed air to drive a variety of equipment throughout a plant, including machine tools, painting booths, materials separation, and materials handling.

Auto service centers and collision repair shops also rely on compressed air for pneumatic tools, air-powered lifts, tire inflation, spray painting and numerous other tasks.



The trouble is fluctuating pressure from a leaking compressed air system can cause air-operated tools and equipment to function less efficiently, slowing or interfering with work duties. If a job requires consistent air pressure, it can even compromise product quality.

Leaks in a system will also put added strain on the compressor because it is forced to run longer and cycle unnecessarily. This leads to more frequent repairs and downtime, not to mention a shorter compressor lifespan. All these costs add up.

"The possibility of leaks should be addressed by every business that utilizes a compressed air system," states Kim. "That's why Avista helps its commercial electric customers by offering an incentive for leak detection and repair."

Avista's Leak Detection program helps commercial and industrial customers save energy and money by reimbursing them for costs associated with eliminating leaks in their compressed air systems.

Under the program, customers hire a contractor to perform a preliminary acoustic-imaging leak-detection audit on their system. Audits inspect the entire compressed-air system for leaks, with special attention paid to the most common problem areas: couplings, fittings, pipe joints, quick disconnects, hoses, valves, FRL (filter, regulator and lubricator) and other components.

Using the resulting report, the customer then fixes the leaks in-house or hires someone to do it. Once the leaks are fixed, the customer must undergo a second acoustic imaging audit to obtain a report that shows the repairs worked and how much energy is being saved.

To initiate reimbursement, the customer fills out Avista's Compressed Air Leak Detection rebate form, attaches their two audit reports, and submits the paperwork to Avista. Upon approval, Avista pays the customer \$0.23 for every kilowatt hour of electricity the repair(s) saves.

The U.S. Industrial Electric Motor Systems Market Opportunities Assessment (Motor Market Assessment) estimates that the energy consumed by a compressed-air system in a typical manufacturing facility could be reduced by 17% through maintenance or repairs with simple paybacks of three years or less.

"Avista's Leak Detection program improves your energy efficiency and your bottom line," says Kim. "Commercial and industrial companies interested in the program should contact their Avista account executive for details."

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