Pipe Insulation: Steam pipes without insulation allow for heat to escape into the atmosphere. The boilers then have to compensate for these energy losses to maintain sufficient heating for all applications. A map was created to show the location of uninsulated pipes, and a contractor was hired to install Velcro insulation. Maintenance workers can now open up the insulation to work on pipes and then conveniently reattach it once they are finished. Maintaining the pipe insulation will reduce the load on the boilers and help the steam system operate more efficiently.

Boiler Operations: Because steam is critical to the production processes at Cambrex, two boilers are kept running at all times to avoid costly interruptions. In the summer the boilers operate at their lowest capacity, yet still provide more steam than the plant requires. To avoid pressure building up in the main steam line, a valve to atmosphere is opened to release excess steam. Installing and staging two new boilers with a lower capacity could reduce the need for venting steam. This would result in savings in make-up water, energy, and treatment chemicals. More research is needed to further evaluate the impacts, particularly on production, and the feasibility of this recommendation during different seasons and operating conditions.