

# BURKE CORPORATION

## COMPANY BACKGROUND

Burke Corporation, a subsidiary of Hormel Foods, manufactures and markets fully cooked meat products for businesses that include restaurant chains and convenience stores. Burke makes more than 1,500 different products and processes over 80 million pounds of meat a year. Burke makes consistent, convenient and safe products, with a forty-year history and commitment to service, quality and product development. Hormel Foods purchased Burke Corporation in 2007 and has continued the dedication to consistent, convenient and safe products.

NEVADA



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### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Burke Corporation has consistently advanced in finding new ways to conserve resources through the years, and has further improved

its environmental sustainability through the Pollution Prevention Intern Program. Over the course of the summer, a water balance was begun to identify the highest water usage areas. This helped focus on the main projects: water conservation, chemical reduction and solid waste minimization.

### INCENTIVES TO CHANGE

In order to combat the rising costs of energy and water, Burke has launched several projects to improve sustainability. The company is looking for new and innovative ways to continue to conserve resources and decrease costs for waste disposal. Over the past

nineteen years, Burke has increased its production by 60 million pounds a year. In 2004, Burke was remodeled to help meet product requirements. To maintain efficient production, source reduction opportunities have been evaluated and implemented.

### RESULTS

**Water Conservation:** The water conservation project included automation, process changes and mechanical modifications. A water and nozzle audit was performed in different areas and it was found that more than five million gallons of water can be saved a year with changes to nozzles and in the oven line. A water balance was initiated to determine the highest water usage areas, thereby establishing baseline usage and identifying waste.

**Chemical and Treatment Reduction:** All effluent water to the city is first treated at the pre-treatment plant. This means that any amount of water conserved directly impacts the cost of chemicals and treatment. Internal and external wastewater treatment is a major expense for Burke, since more than 30,000 gallons of chemicals are needed for the treatment process.

**Grease Recovery:** Through process changes, as well as installing catch pans, an additional 242,000 pounds of grease can be recovered a year. Recovering additional grease during sanitation not only reduces treatment costs, but also increases grease revenue.

**Cardboard and Plastic Recycling:** Burke currently has a baler to recycle some cardboard waste. If another baler were purchased to help with the recycling demand, a potential 440 tons of additional material could be

diverted from the waste stream each year. The facility could also begin to recycle plastic material as well as cardboard.

**Waste Heat Recovery:** Insulation projects on the boilers and hot water lines can result in significant energy savings at Burke. With more than 350 feet of piping in need of insulation and a recommendation to install 93 insulating blankets, over 30,000 therms would be saved from natural gas heating and 27 tons of carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced annually.

PROJECT	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS	STATUS
WATER CONSERVATION: PROCESS AND MECHANICAL CHANGES	\$80,900	7,700,000 GALLONS	IN PROGRESS
CHEMICAL AND TREATMENT REDUCTION	\$67,800	30,000 GALLONS	IN PROGRESS
GREASE RECOVERY	\$27,250	121 TONS	IN PROGRESS
CARDBOARD/PLASTIC RECYCLING	\$73,700	360-660 TONS	IN PROGRESS
WASTE HEAT RECOVERY	\$41,300	37,800 THERMS	RECOMMENDED



Air Pollutants Diverted in Tons

	Total for all sectors
SO2	0.18
CO	0.31
NOX	0.17
VOC	0.47
PM	0.02

Green House Gases Diverted in Tons (CO2 Equivalent)

	Total for all sectors
CO2	81.6
CH4	393
N2O	181
CFCS	0.88