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# Greener Compressed Air Systems-Reducing the Environmental Impact

Paul Edwards  
Compressed Air Consultants  
*Keynote Speaker*

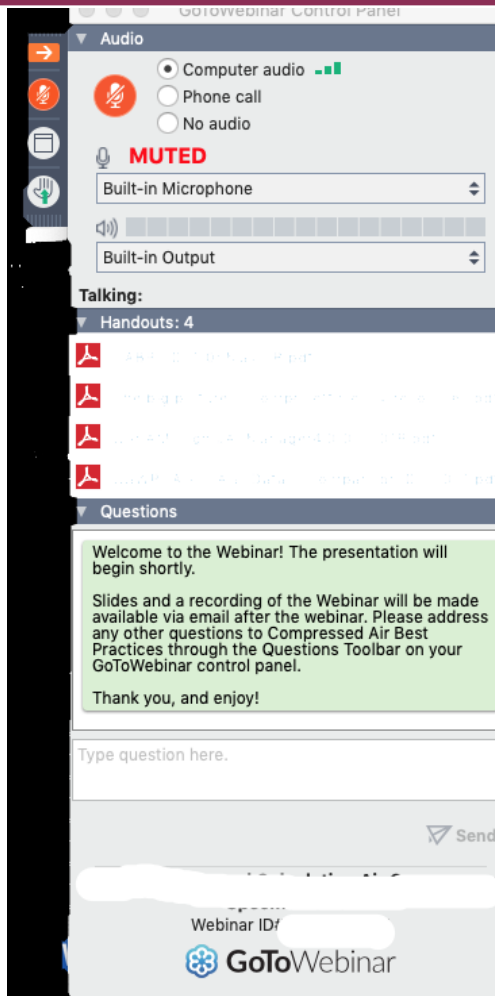
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# Q&A Format



- Panelists will answer your questions during the Q&A session at the end of the Webinar.

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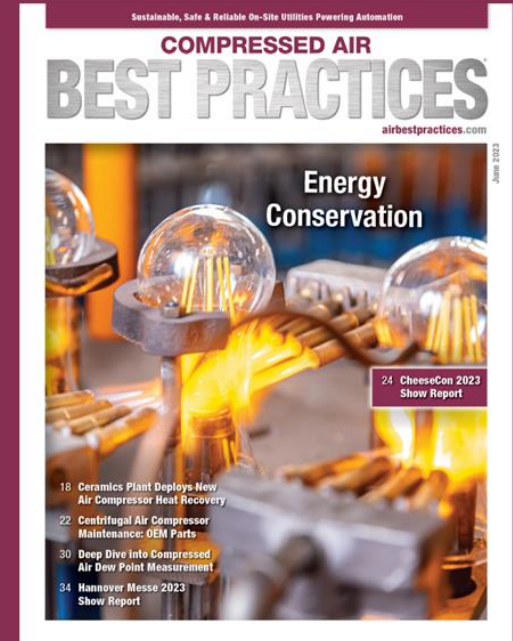
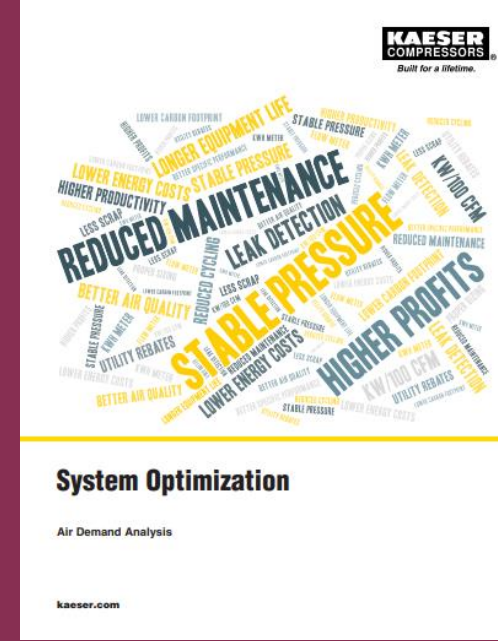
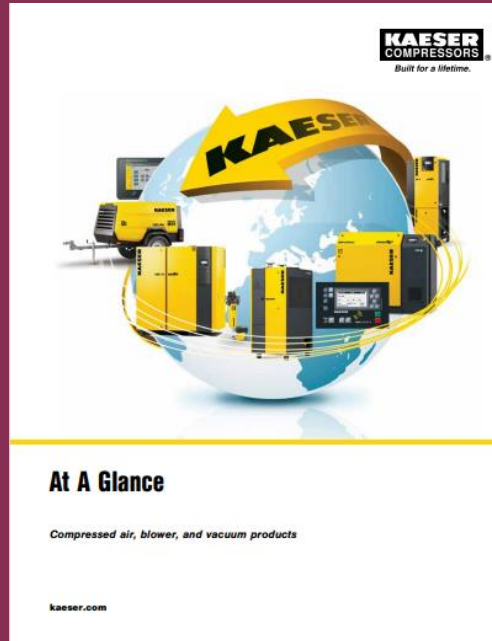
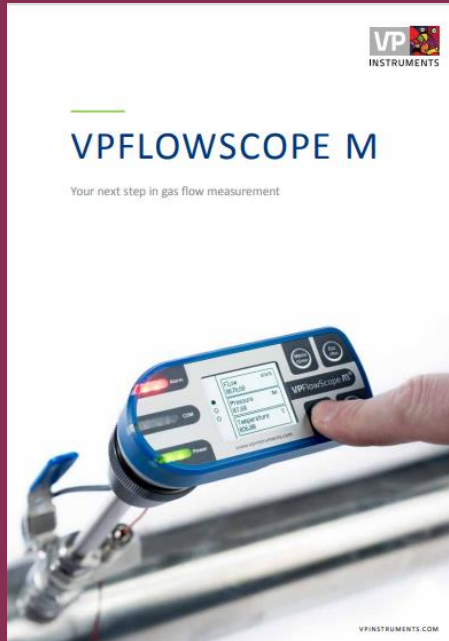
- Direct all questions to Compressed Air Best Practices® Magazine

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# Handouts

MEASURE, DISCOVER, SAVE (THE WORLD)



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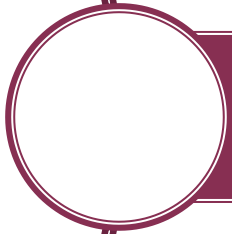
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# Greener Compressed Air Systems-Reducing the Environmental Impact

Introduction by  
Compressed Air Best Practices® Magazine



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# About the Speaker



**Paul Edwards**

Compressed Air Consultants

- President and Owner, Compressed Air Consultants since 2003
- 39 years of experience in the compressed air industry
- Former Marketing Manager, Product Manager, Ingersoll Rand
- Started up IR's audit business

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# **Greener** Compressed Air Systems

## *A Challenge “by Industry” to our Industry*

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10/04/22

**Paul Edwards**  
**President**  
**Compressed Air Consultants**



# What is “Green”?

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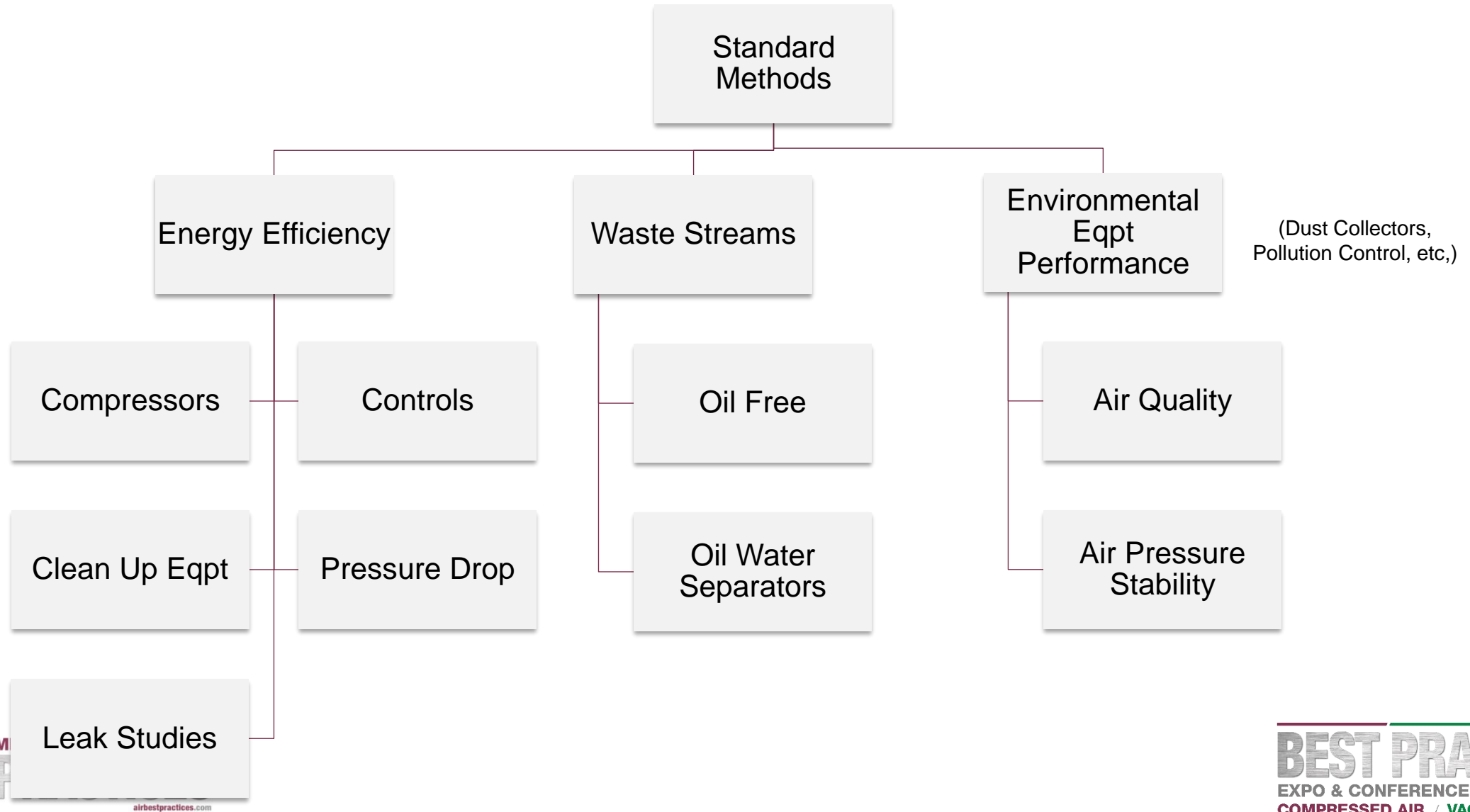


Green has no political boundaries.

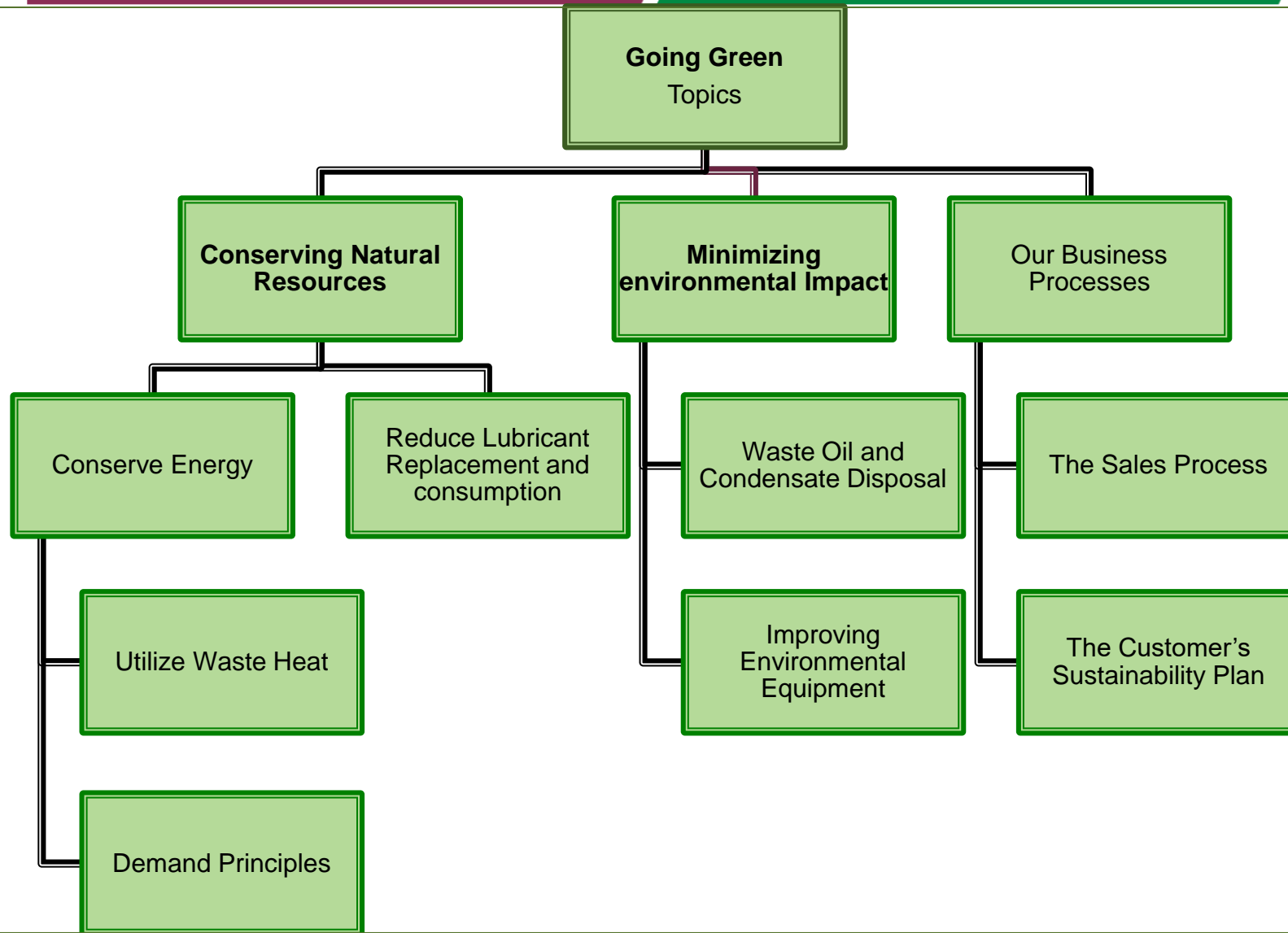
When we look deeper into the meaning of green, we will understand it extends well beyond the foundational aspects of recycling and environmental protection. Green means to continually improve upon the manner that resources are utilized that results in reduced impacts to human health and the environment and is done without sacrificing the current and future needs of our world. No legislative or political structure has domain over green.

However, government has a place in this movement. Foundational environmental laws, based on sound science are important to create performance baselines, but legislation must keep pace with new technologies and not restrict **innovation that is holistically better for our world**. This is the foundation of pollution prevention, welcoming innovative solutions to our challenges and is accomplished using green chemistry and design for the environment disciplines. Doing so will reduce overbearing and restrictive legislation, especially when a total ecosystem approach or life cycle analysis concepts to problem solving are utilized.

# Standard “Green” Approaches



# 2008 Definition



airbestpractices.com

## Greener Compressed Air Systems

Andy Edwards, Ash Grove Cement, USA, and Paul Edwards and Daryl Beatty, Compressed Air Consultants, USA, outline the benefits of green initiatives on compressed air systems.

### Introduction

If green is defined as conserving natural resources while reducing the environmental impact, then the following areas offer the greatest opportunity for "greening" the compressed air system:

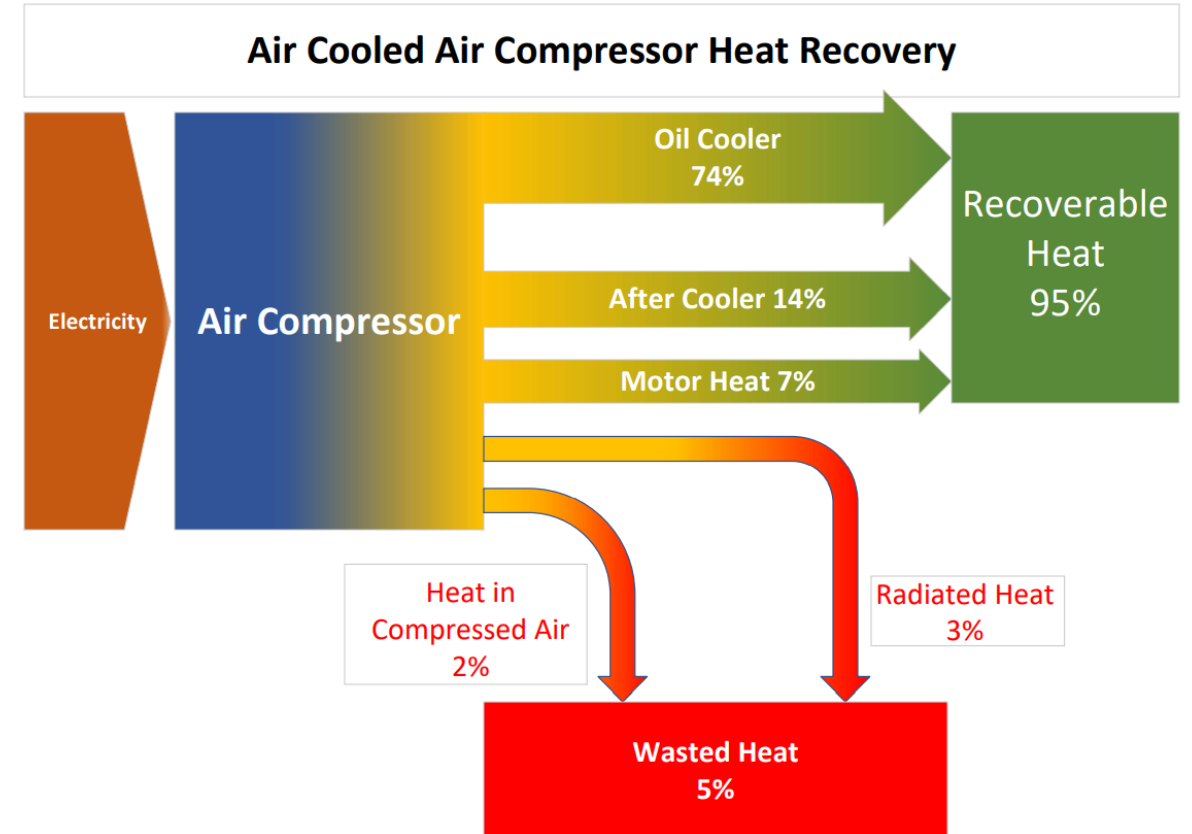
- Conserving natural resources:
  - Reducing energy consumption.
  - Reducing lubricant replacement and consumption.
- Minimising environmental impact:
  - Reducing waste oil handling and disposal.
  - Improving dust collector performance.
  - Controlling condensate effectively.
  - Utilising waste heat.

While there are other areas of improvement, such as noise reduction and maximising machine life, the overall impact is minimal compared to the above. With that in mind, the ultimate purpose of any green improvement project for a compressed air system is to transform it into a more repeatable process that supports the needs of production at all points in the plant at all times at minimum cost, while having the smallest environmental footprint.

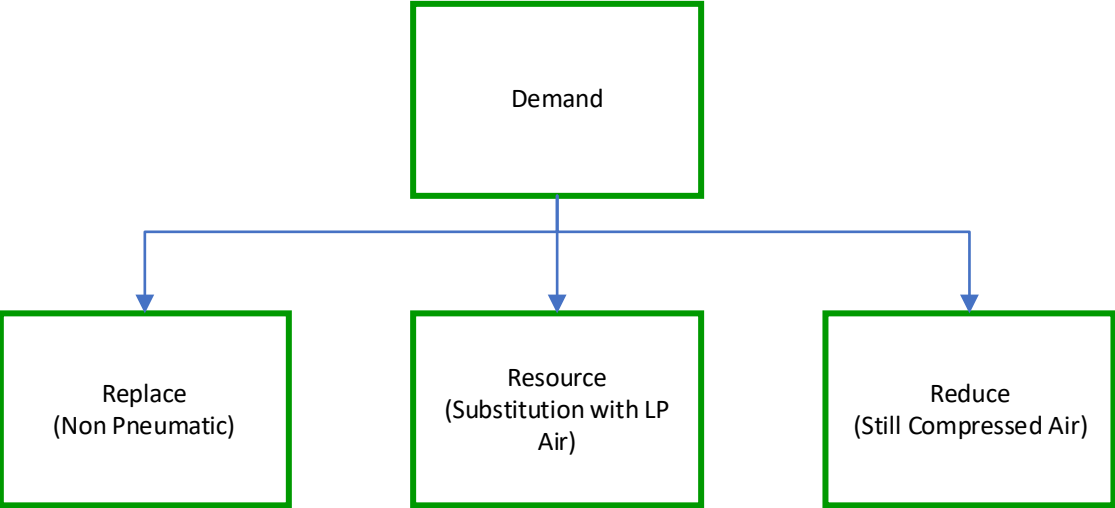
Just as important, greening the compressed air system makes good business sense.

# Waste Heat Utilization

- Could another way of looking at it be that a Compressor is an Inefficient Heater that just happens to produce compressed air?
- Water Cooling
  - Boiler Pre-heat, cleaning water
- Air Cooled
  - Space Heating, Drying



# Demand Is More than Leaks



Application	Current	Proposed	Savings
Supply Side Desiccant Dryers	1078	0	1078
Application A	1745	618	1127
Application B	150	25	125
Application C	291	50	241
Application D	249	175	74
Application E	135	140	-5
Application F	44	44	0
Application G	50	50	0
Application H	50	50	0
Application I	486	486	0
Application J	5	0	5
Miscellaneous	963	963	0
Application K	213	167	46
Application M	40	20	20
Application N	127	0	127
Safety/Fudge Factor	0	500	-500
Leaks	98	48	50
Total	5723	3336	2388
<b>Additional Energy</b>		<b>HP</b>	
Open Blowing Replacement	0	20	
Application D Motors	0	5	
Additional HP Load		25	



# Demand – Replace (Non Pneumatic) with Mechanical or Hydraulic



## Drum and Barrel Heavy-Duty Electric Motor Mixers

NEPTUNE

Heavy-duty mixers for mixing contents of 55-gallon drums and barrels—choose from three mounting styles

These high-quality mixers are available in three mounting versions for heavy-duty mixing. Adjustable hand screws secure the drum-lip model to the rim of 55-gallon (200 liter) drums. The C-clamp model mounts to any open head tank or drum and allows you to adjust the angle of the mixer. The 2" NPT(M) mount model screws directly into a standard 2" (51 mm) female bung to keep odors in and debris out.

Drum-lip and NPT(M) mount models include a folding impeller to pass through bung that attaches to the shaft with set screw and opens to a maximum

[MORE +](#)

\$908.00 - \$1,108.00 USD / EACH

6 variations of this product are available.

[SEE ALL PRODUCT OPTIONS BELOW](#)



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# Demand – Replace (Non Pneumatic)

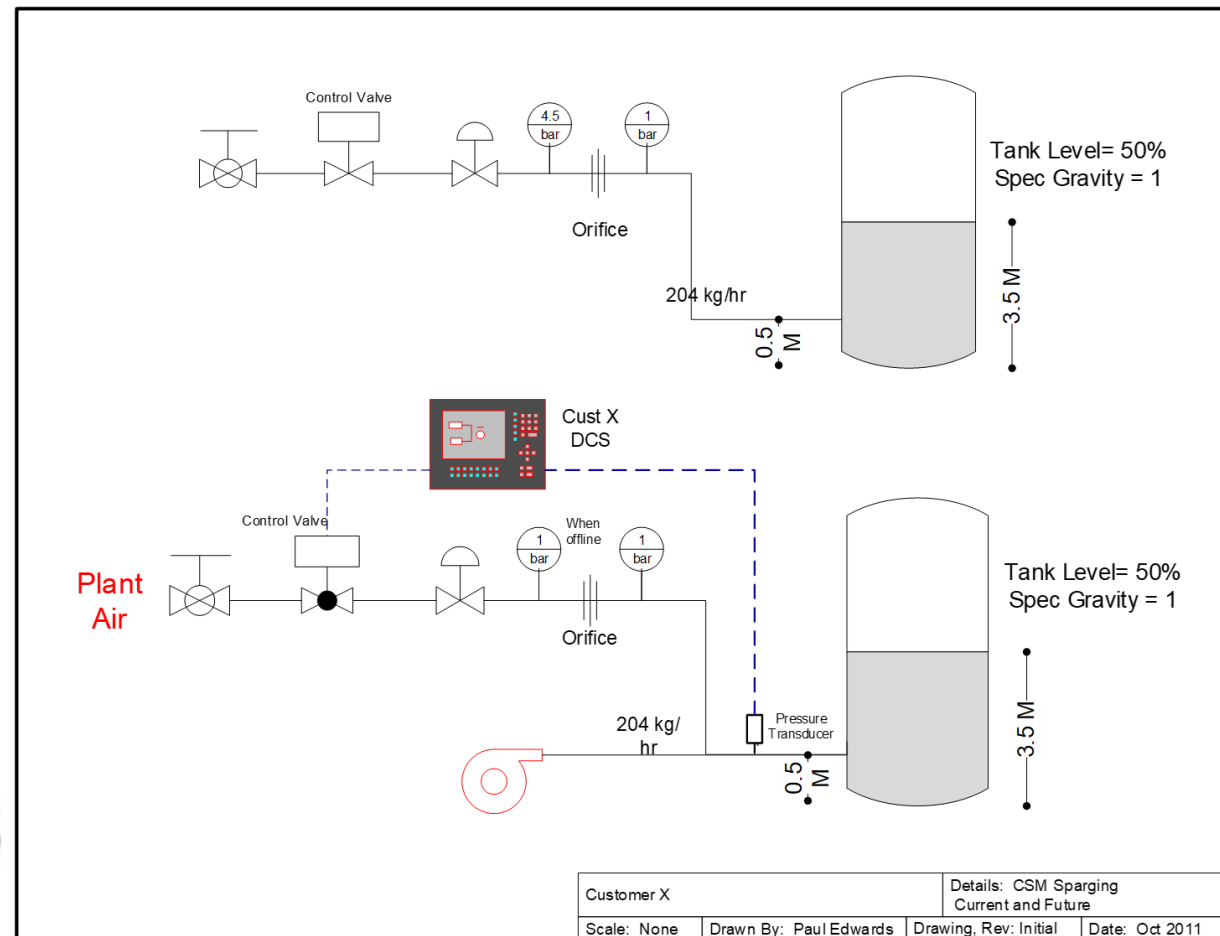
- Ready Made Conversions



Vibrator Force or Impact Lbs.	PAGE NO.	ELECTRIC MODELS										PNEUMATIC MODELS										HYDRAULIC MODELS									
		2P Page 24-28	4P Page 24-28	6P Page 24-28	8P Page 24-28	SPR Page 29-30	US Page 31-32	SFC Page 34	FC Page 34	SCR Page 23-24	TURBINE Page 3-12	PISTON Page 15-18	BALL Page 13-14	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	TURBINE Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIG BUSTER Page 21-22	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.	BIN SKIN Thickness Max.
10										SCR-50/60												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
20										SCR-100												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
40										SCR-200/300												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
60										SCR-400/500												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
80										SCR-1000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
100										SCR-2000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
150										SCR-4000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
200										SCR-8000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
300										SCR-16000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
400										SCR-32000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
500										SCR-64000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
600										SCR-128000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
700										SCR-256000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
800										SCR-512000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
900										SCR-1024000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
1000										SCR-2048000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
1200										SCR-4096000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
1400										SCR-8192000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
1600										SCR-16384000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
2000										SCR-32768000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
2500										SCR-65536000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
3000										SCR-131072000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
3500										SCR-262144000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
4000										SCR-524288000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
4500										SCR-1048576000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
5000										SCR-2097152000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
6000										SCR-4194304000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
7000										SCR-8388608000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2
8000										SCR-16777216000												20 Ga.	20 Ga.	1/16	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	5/8	7/16	1/2

# Demand – Re-source (Substitute HP Air with LP)

Estimated Comparison of Costs				% of Rotary	€/m3/yr
	M3/hr	KW	M3/hr/kw		
Rotary Screw	757	89	8	100%	64
LP Screw-30 psi	850	49	17	49%	31
Lobe	1013	33	30	28%	18
Pressure Blower	680	6	112	8%	5



# Demand – Reduce Compressed Air Consumption



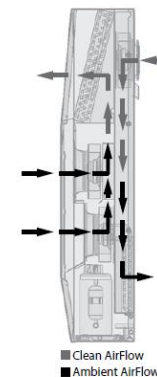
G52 Indoor and Outdoor Base Models



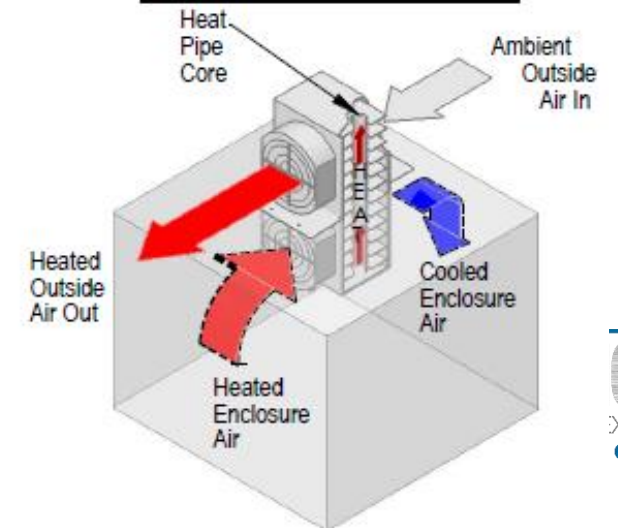
G52 Indoor Model  
8000 BTU/Hr.  
2300 Watts



G52 Outdoor Model  
12000 BTU/Hr.  
3500 Watts



## DROP-IN MODELS





# Waste Streams –

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- How much does it really cost to make a long life lubricant?
- Time Based or Condition Based Maintenance? What are end users moving towards?
  - Lubricant?
  - Airends?
  - Compressors?



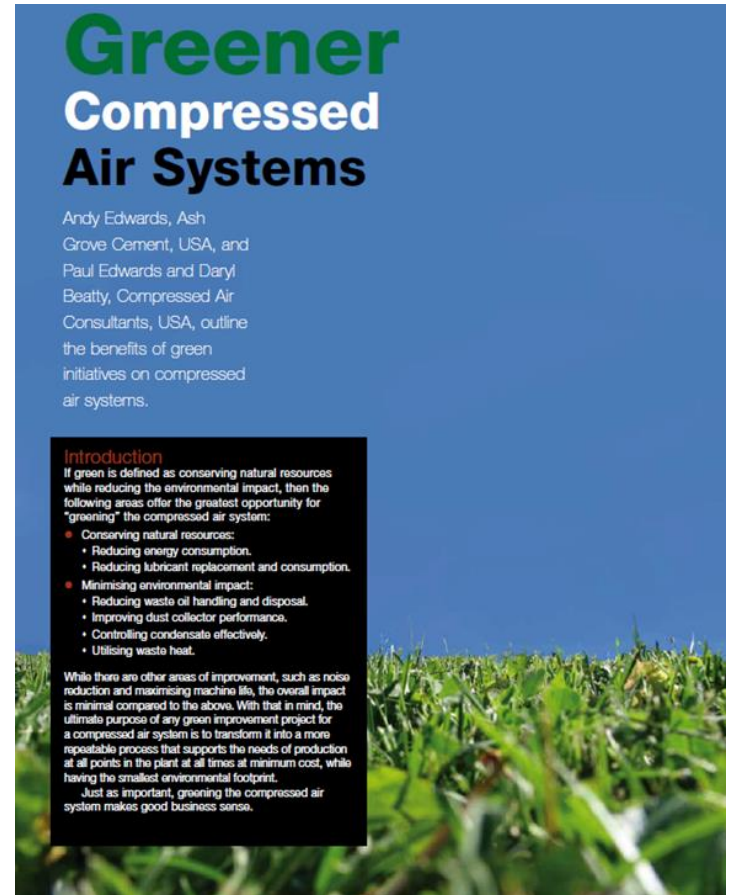
# Lubricant Purification

- Increase the lube lifetime by up to 4x
  - Ion Resin prevents lubricant from going acid
  - Moisture removal helps bearing lifetime
  - Additional filtration improves lubricant quality to the bearings



# 2008 Definition Update

- Conserving Natural Resources
  - Reducing Energy Consumption, decreasing CO2 emissions
  - Reducing Lubricant Replacement and consumption
- Minimizing environmental Impact
  - Reducing Waste Oil handling and disposal
  - Improving Environmental Equipment Performance
  - Controlling Condensate Effectively
  - Utilizing Waste Heat
- Optimizing Spending/Improved Analysis
- Faster Feedback
- Operator Training





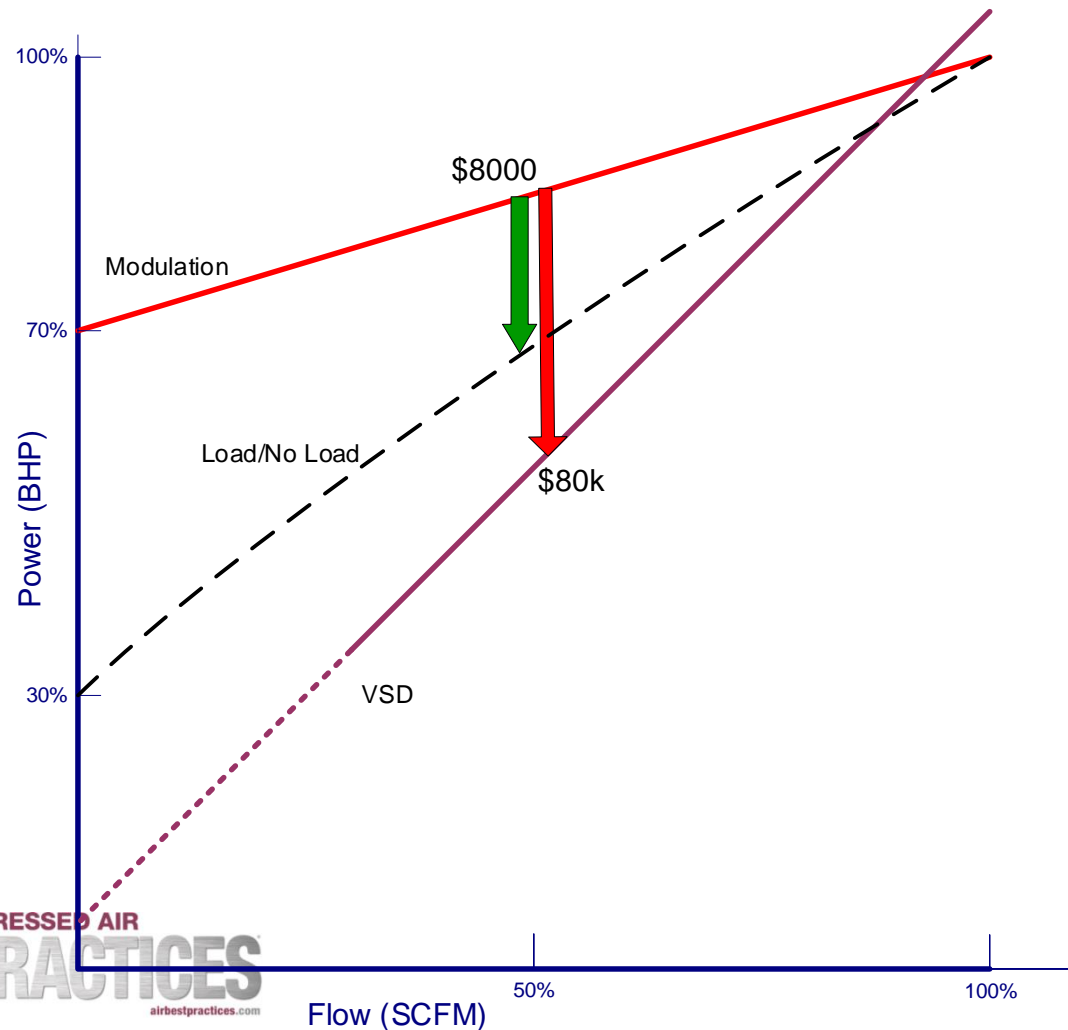
# Optimized Spending

- Green is more than equipment
  - *Green means to continually improve upon the manner that resources are utilized that results in reduced impacts to human health and the environment and is done without sacrificing the current and future needs of our world.*
- Is spending money on a sub-optimal solution truly green?
  - Could that money spent on the new VSD have been put to better use?



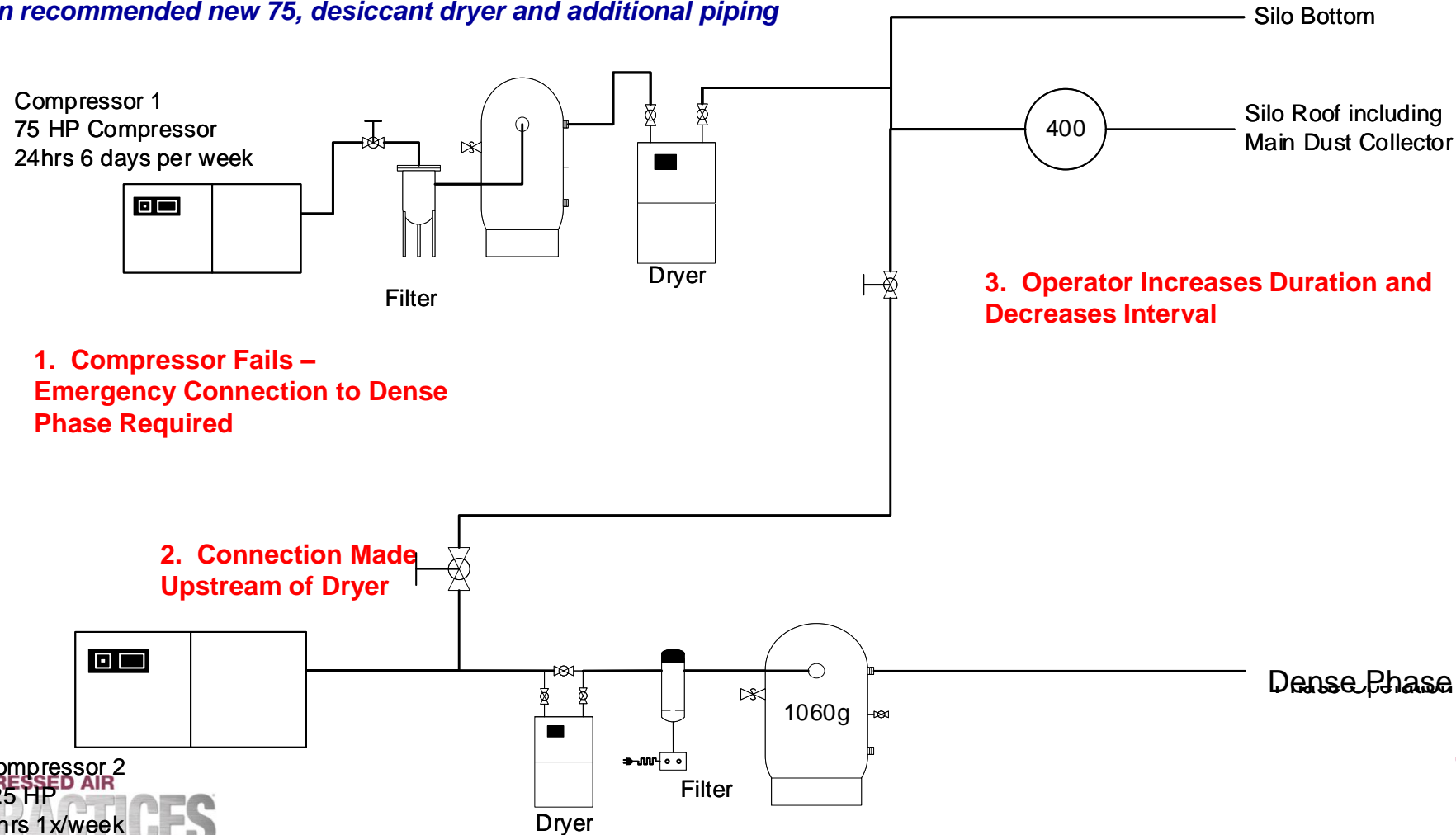
# Challenging “Common Sense” – Stewards of the End Users Resources

- Should ROI be considered when it comes to going green?



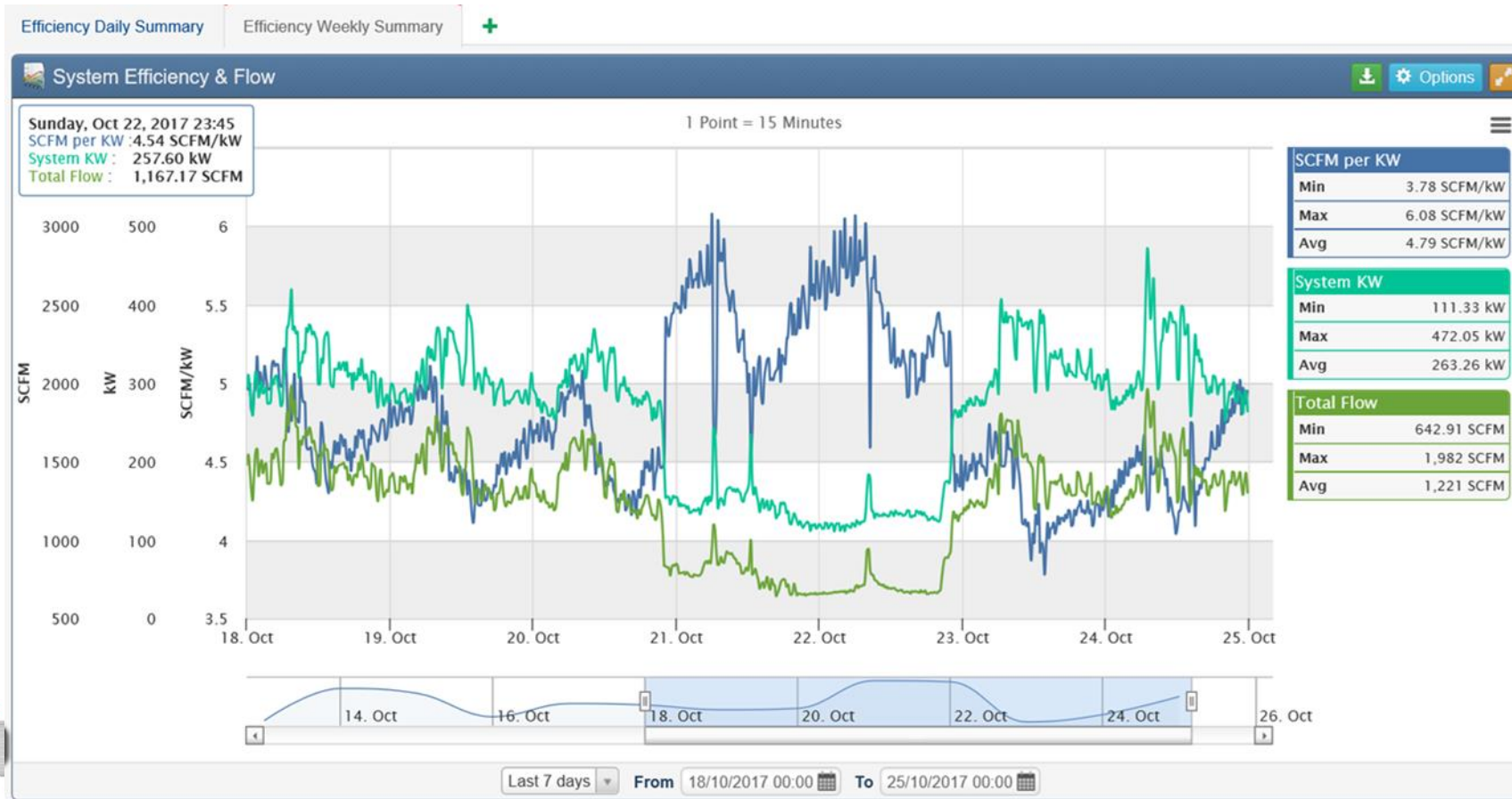
# Improving the Recommendation Process

- *Insufficient Pressure on Silo Roof Leads to Dusting*
- *Without any change in the process, the 125 hp went to 24/8 from 8/1*
- *Salesman recommended new 75, desiccant dryer and additional piping*



# Faster, Better Feedback

- Minimum KPIs
  - SCFM for Demand Side Efficiency
  - SCFM/kw for Supply Side Efficiency





# Operator Training

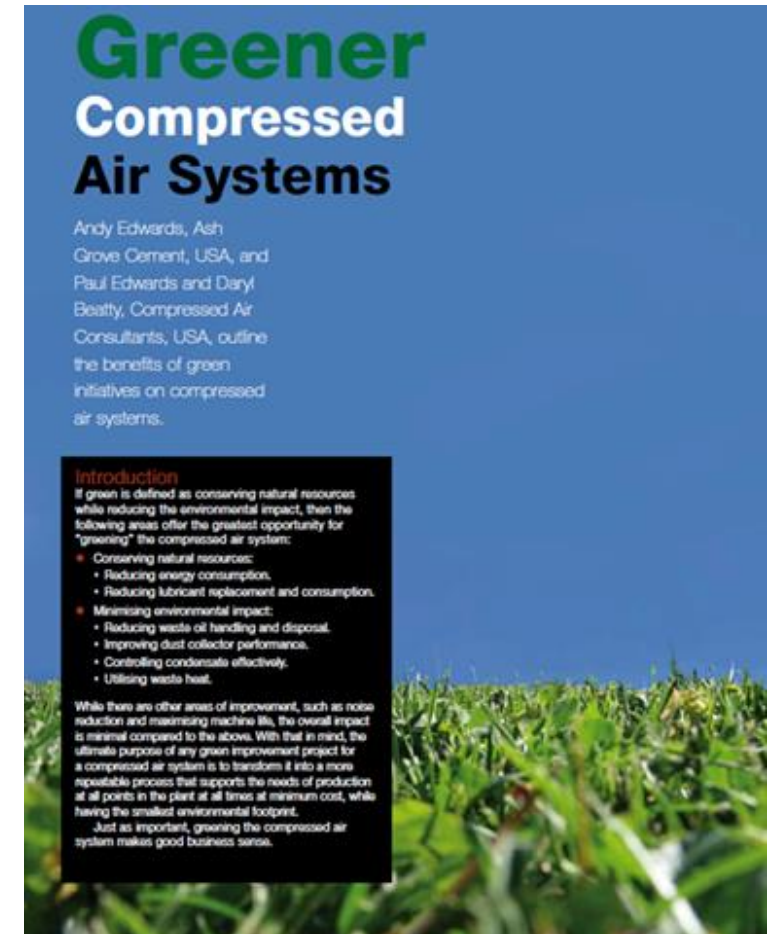
- *Never underestimate the Ingenuity of Operators to Come up with Techniques That Throws Away Money That You'll Never Know About*
- Training Plant Personnel on the cost of compressed air is critical to long term success
- Retaining the “Tribal Knowledge”



Air, your most Expensive Energy. Even a little adjustment can cost plenty (\$5000 per year)

# Summary

- More and More End Users Value “**Green**”
- Suppliers Can Profit by Providing It
  - Existing Processes and Techniques
  - Underused Techniques
  - Better Evaluations
- Generating Profit for End User and Supplier alike





# About the Speaker



**Pascal van Putten**  
VP Instruments

- CEO, VP Instruments
- > 20 years experience
- VP Instruments offers industrial clients Energy Management Solutions for compressed air, technical gases as well as other utilities

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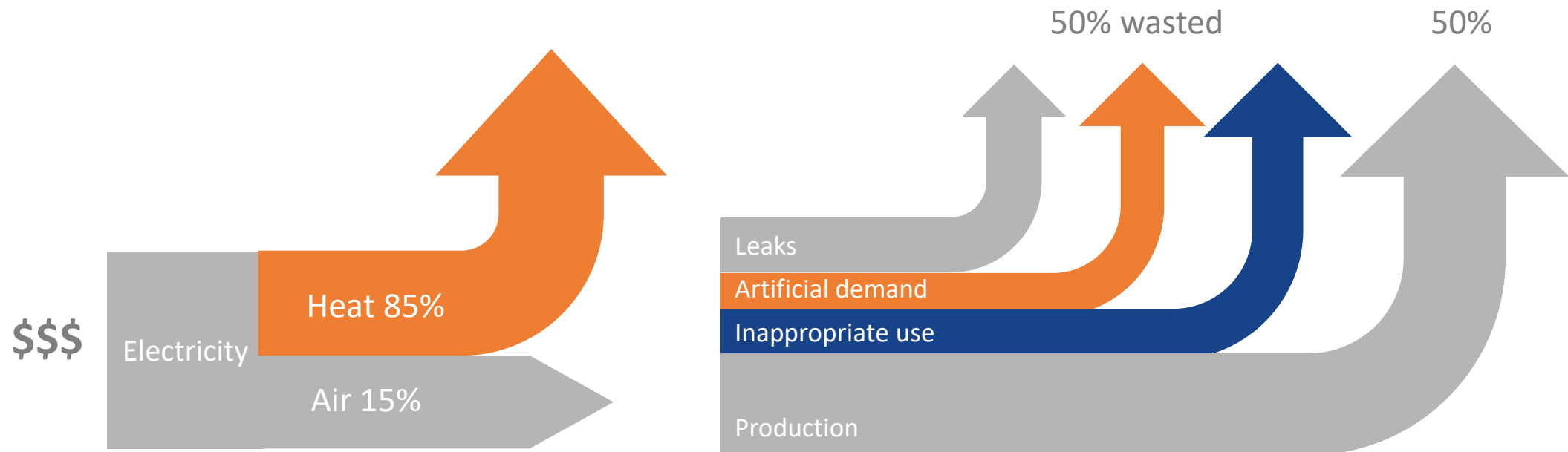
# Start making well founded decisions





# Costs of compressed air

- 8 to 10 x more than electricity
- 10% - 30 % of the electricity bill of an average production plant
- Still often considered as “free”







What is your focus?

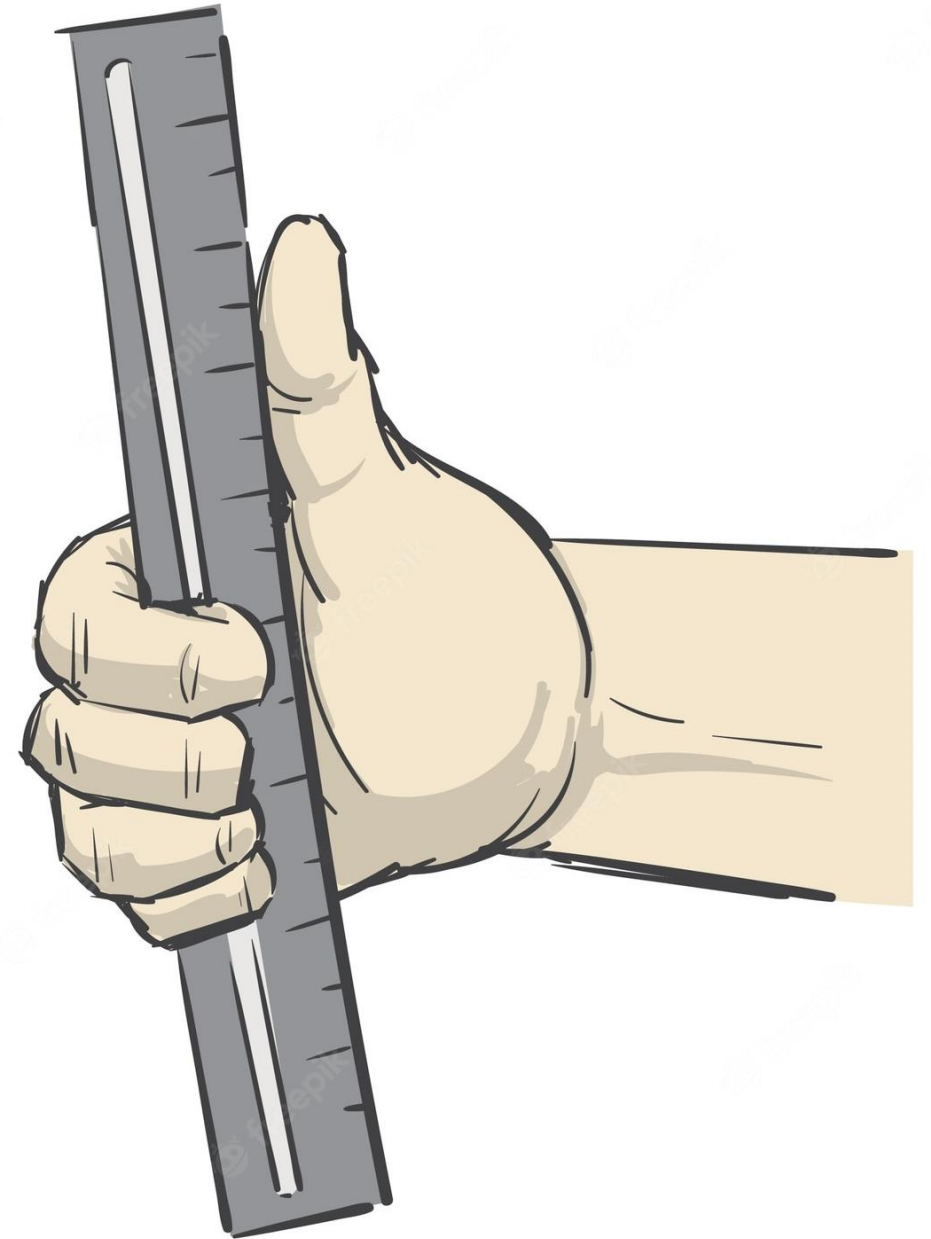
# ROI

In compressed air savings industry, typical rule of thumb:

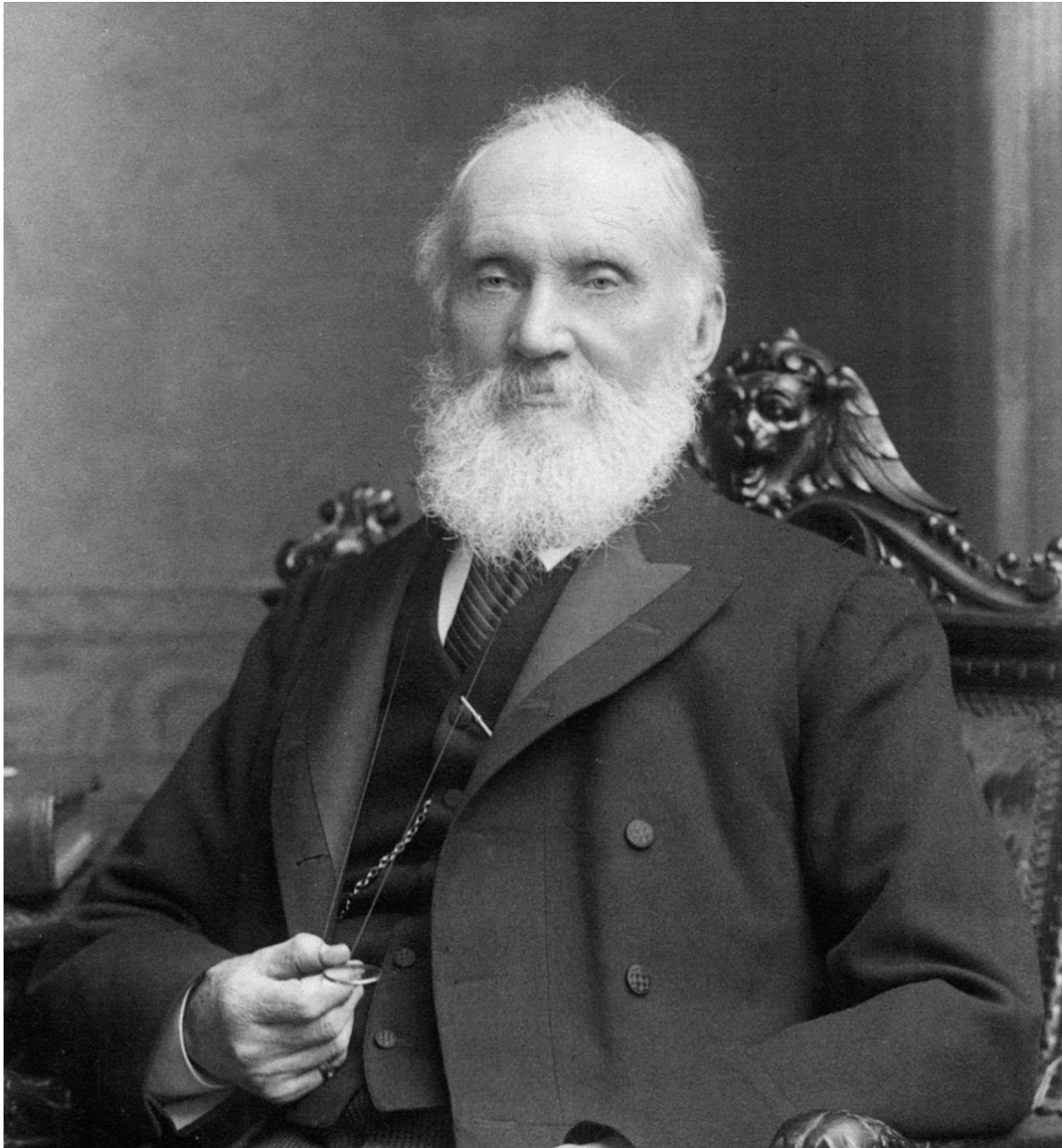
At least **10% savings on energy costs** → make this your initial ROI target

Typical measures:

- Leak detection and repair
- Demand side management
- System pressure optimization
- Proper dryers and filtration
- Receiver tanks/ storage







*“If you cannot measure it,  
you cannot improve it”*

Lord Kelvin

# Savings Example Sauce Plant

## Initial state

- No monitoring used on site
- No production in weekends
- 1 compressor room with 2 x 100 hp/ 75 kW compressors
- One of the compressors was designed for back-up
- Both machines were running most of the time





# Savings Example Sauce Plant

## Solution

Basic monitoring system + 4-in-1 flow meter + 2 x Amp meter

## Measures taken

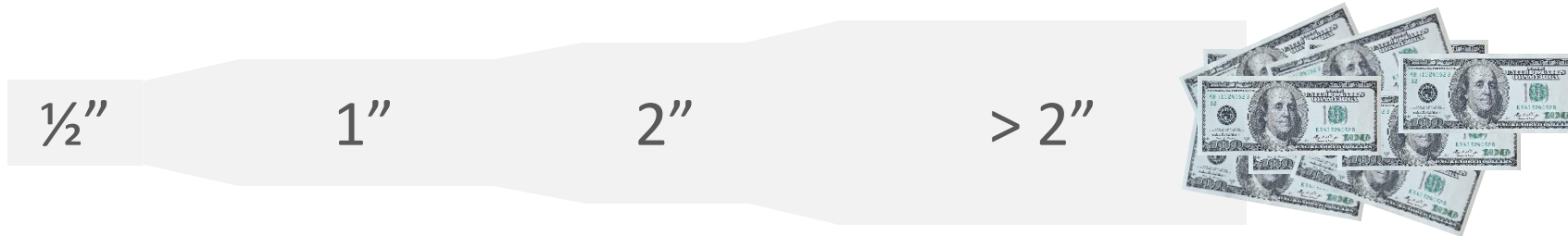
- Keep track of leakage rates and associated energy costs
- Set automatic alarm when the back up compressor comes on

## Results

- After 1 week data: Annual leakage \$ 40,000 detected and fixed
- 1 compressor can be shut down. Back to back-up role
- **ROI: ~ 1.5 month**



# (Cash) Flow meter



Size (inch)	Max flow (SCFM)	USD/ min	USD/ hour	40 h week USD/ year	24/7 USD/ year
½ inch	50	0.02	1	\$ 2,080	\$ 8,840
1 inch	150	0.05	3	\$ 6,240	\$ 26,000
2 inch	600	0.18	10	\$ 20,800	\$ 87,360
3 inch	1350	0.41	25	\$ 52,000	\$ 218,400

## Disclaimer

- This example is to illustrate the general line of thought.
- Flow meter and installation costs vary depending on type, location and other requirements
- Leakage repair costs can vary from a simple gasket towards overhaul of a machine and are not included in this example
- “A flow meter alone does not save anything”, but it does open your eyes and reveals issues which you cannot see otherwise.



# (Cash) Flow meter

Example for 10% savings

Size (inch)	Max flow (SCFM)	USD/ hour	Flow meter + installation	40h 10%	ROI (years)	24/7 10%	ROI (years)
½ inch	50	1	\$ 1,000	\$ 210	<b>4.80</b>	\$ 884	<b>1.40</b>
1 inch	150	3	\$ 1,500	\$ 620	<b>2.40</b>	\$ 2,600	<b>0.70</b>
2 inch	600	10	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,080	<b>1.00</b>	\$ 8,736	<b>0.30</b>
3 inch	1350	25	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,200	<b>0.80</b>	\$21,840	<b>0.20</b>

## Disclaimer

- This example is to illustrate the general line of thought.
- Flow meter and installation costs vary depending on type, location and other requirements
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- “A flow meter alone does not save anything”, but it does open your eyes and reveals issues which you cannot see otherwise.

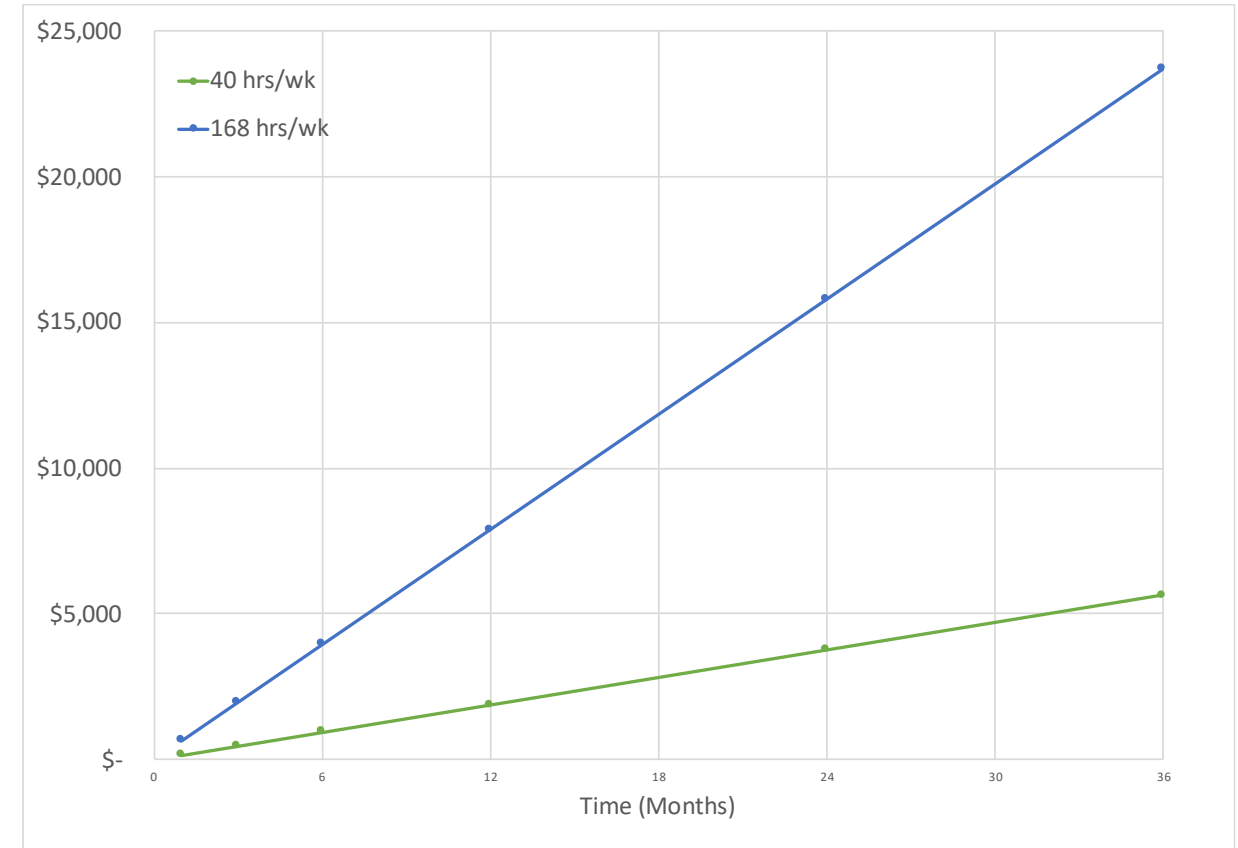


# The costs of procrastination

Costs/ 1000 SCFM : 30 cents  
 Leak : 60 SCFM  
 Waste per month : ~660 USD

Leak repair budget : 2500 USD  
 Budget wasted in (24/7) : ~ 3.8 months  
 Budget wasted in (40h) : ~ 16 months

Budget/waste ratio < 6 months: **“just fix it”**





Why are improvements not your priority?

# 4-in-1 flowmeter: your "Swiss army knife"

- Flow
- Pressure
- Temperature
- Total flow
- Data logger





# Final tip

Start mapping with your team

- Sketch of your compressed air system
- Set a target for:
  - Annual costs
  - Nominal consumption
  - Nominal pressure
  - Efficiency
- Identify issues past 6 months, consequences and discuss how to prevent/overcome them
- Small improvements/ repairs? **Just fix it** when  $ROI < X$  months, but keep a permanent eye on results





# THANK YOU!

**Pascal van Putten**

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# About the Speaker



**Michael Camber**  
Kaeser Compressors

- Marketing Services Manager, Kaeser Compressors
- Joined Kaeser in 1997
- Member of Kaeser's active training team
- KFaCT Master Certified
- Prior US Marine Corps officer

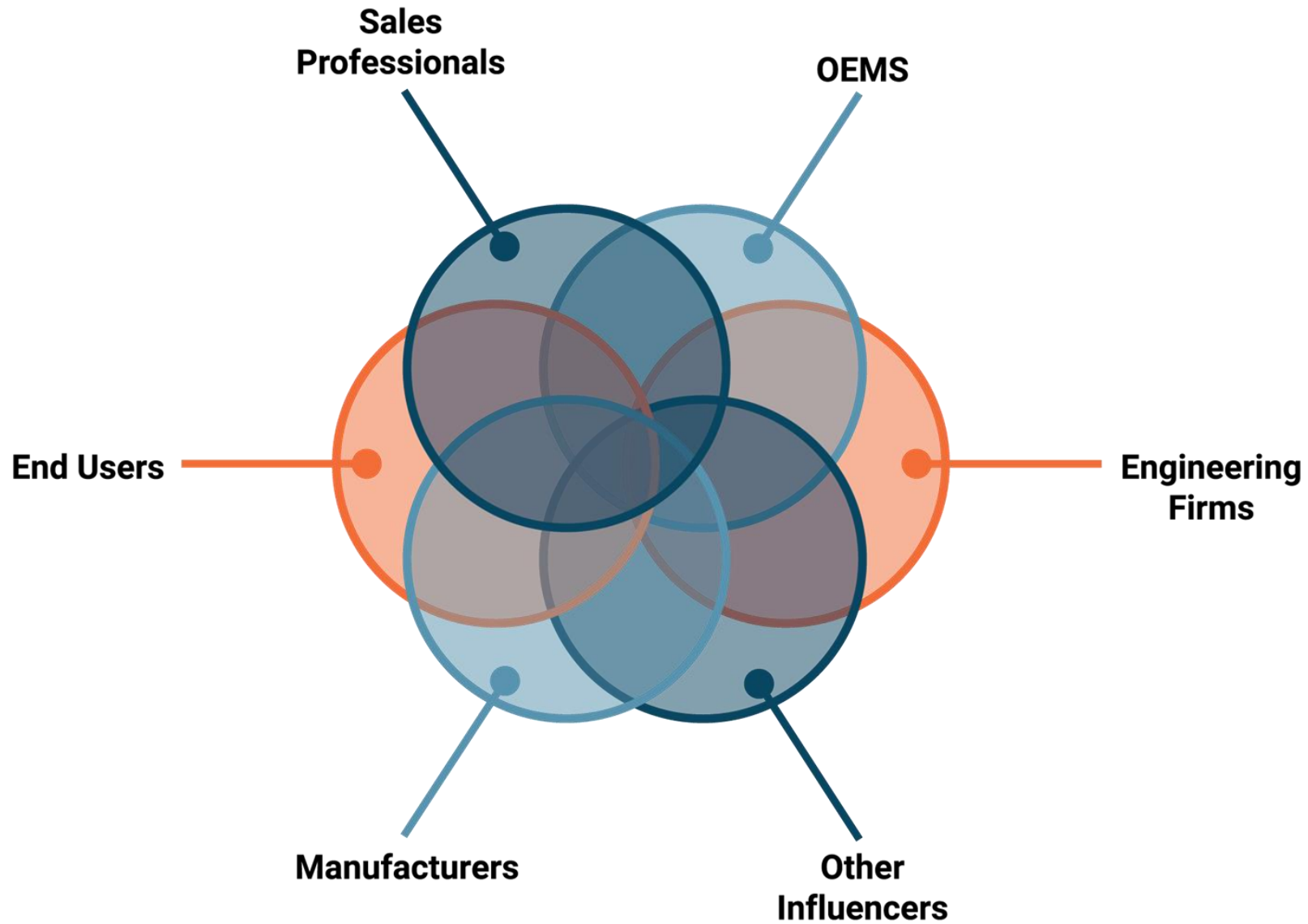
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# How can we make compressed air greener?

Michael Camber | Kaeser Compressors, Inc.





## See The Bigger Picture

- Energy consumption is only part of the picture
- Need to consider the whole life cycle
  - Extracted resources
  - Embodied energy
  - Energy consumption in operation
  - Consumables
  - Replacement parts
  - Lifespan
  - Disposal

## The Problem with Oversizing

- Many systems are grossly oversized
- More metal mined, etc
- More transport fuel
- More consummables (\$\$)
- Larger repair parts (\$\$)
- Short cycling=>more wear
- Shorter compressor life

# Manufacturers

- Employ green manufacturing practices
- Design equipment that is efficient
- Build it to last
- Reduce materials in consummables
- Educate customers, sales teams and influencers on system design





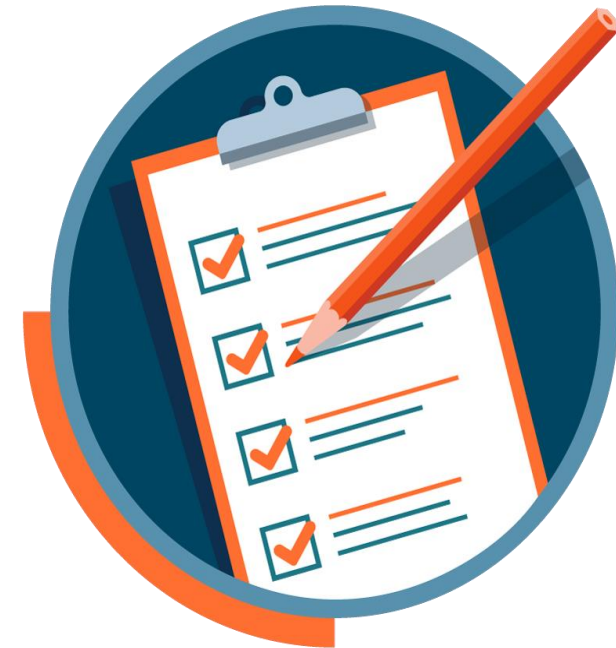
## Sales/Service Partners

- Educate end users
- Use available data for system design
- Challenge inclinations to oversize
- Help them identify causes of waste
- Help them keep equipment running longer
- Know when to recommend replacement
- Use data from air energy studies and controls
- Look for heat recovery opportunities



## End User Roles

- Eliminate inappropriate uses
- Reduce pressure/artificial demand
- Invest in periodic or full time data collection
- Measure and manage
- Commit to leak reduction
- Resist oversizing compressors
- Employ heat recovery



## Engineers, OEMs and Influencers

- Resist oversizing compressors
- Promote use of controls
- Promote use of data collection
- Look for heat recovery opportunities



# What Can We Do?

## Supply Side

- Good system design *(sizing & controls)*
- Compressor selection *(e.g. CAGI datasheets)*
- Ongoing data collection
  - Supply audits
  - Live data from instruments
- Keep good machines running

## Demand Side

- Operate at lower pressure
- Leak reduction
- Eliminate inappropriate uses
- Demand audits
- Heat recovery

**The greenest energy is the energy you don't use**



## The Good News: We Can Make A Significant Impact

Comprehensive approach to energy also addresses oversizing

Let's get the numbers and do the math.

It's good for the bottom line

# Thank you

# Best Practices EXPO Contest

Play for a chance to win a **FREE Full Conference Pass** to the Best Practices 2023 EXPO & Conference!! This is a \$675 value! This contest is open to factory personnel, compressed air distributors, utility incentive programs and engineering firms. Exhibiting and sponsor companies are not qualified. Winners will be randomly selected from those who submitted a correct answer and notified tomorrow via email.

Please submit your answer in the upcoming poll

What % of an air-cooled air compressor's heat can be recovered?

A

• 14%

B

• 74%

C

• 95%

\*By entering you are giving permission to announce your name if you are a winner

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# Greener Compressed Air Systems-Reducing the Environmental Impact

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**Thank you for attending!**

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**Tim Dugan**

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