

Reduction in Milk Solids in Waste to Effluent Treatment Plant

WEXFORD CREAMERY - WEXFORD



Financial Benefits:

Cost Savings: €26,000 / Annum
 Investment: €0
 Payback: Immediate

Environmental Benefits:

Water reduced: 5% p.a.
 Energy reduced: 4% p.a.

Description of Property

Wexford Creamery was established in 1963 and is located on the outskirts of Wexford Town. It is part of the Dairy Crest PLC - largest manufacturers of cheese and liquid milk products in the UK. Cheddar cheese, whey concentrate and liquid milk products are produced at the Wexford site.

Project description

The aim of the project was to reduce waste, to increase awareness of waste, and to recycle and reuse where possible. The primary objective was to recover suspended solids from the process wastewater. These are product residues generated by plant cleaning and by accidental losses. As the project progressed the company identified process efficiency improvements that resulted in reduced waste losses, and the recovery of solids using a decanter was avoided. Greater awareness and understanding of staff in relation to product and process losses has also been achieved.

The Solution

The reduction in the waste removal costs of sludge derived from white whey which is now processed, has resulted in savings of ca. €26,000/annum (2,000 tonnes @ €13/tonne). Reductions in water, steam and electricity usage have significance in containing service costs. The creation of an energy monitoring programme has increased awareness of energy consumption and will lead to savings in the longer term.