OPERATORS OPTIMIZE THEIR HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM

$600,000 PER YEAR OF RECURRENT SAVINGS

SITUATION AbitibiBowater Kénogami produce 210 000 tons/year of uncoated groundwood and supercalender paper grades on two modern TMP lines and two paper machines. In recent years, the mill has considerably improved their energy situation by investing in their measurement system and by applying good energy practices. The mill had also invested in a new heat recovery system, but even so, they wanted to further reduce energy costs and turned to PEPITe for help.

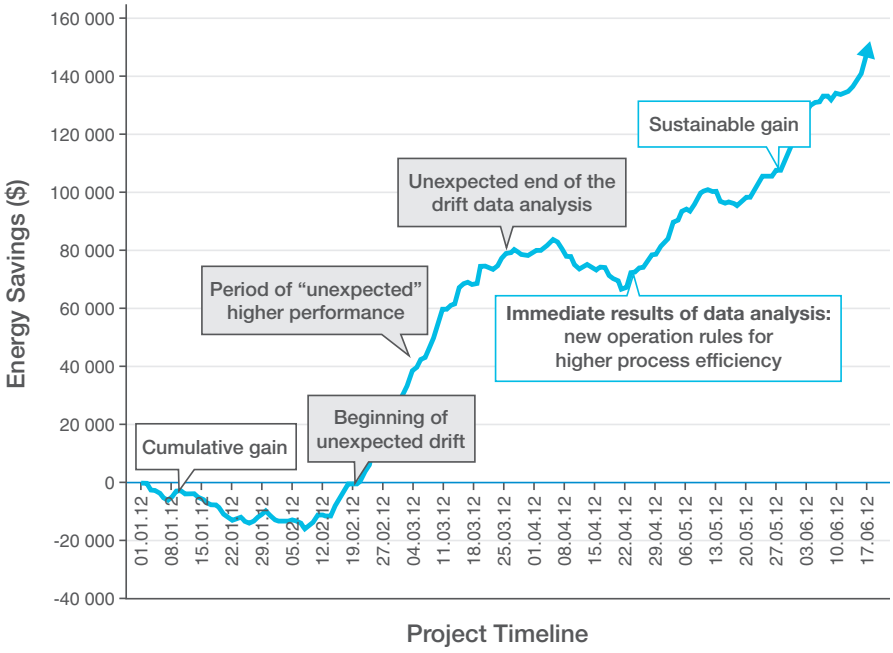
SOLUTION To achieve and sustain higher energy performance, an improved monitoring structure was implemented at all levels of the mill, from operators to mill manager. This also included a support system for troubleshooting. Several different data mining tools, mill knowledge and existing monitoring practices were combined to:

1. Build model-based KPIs.
2. Identify operating conditions that ensure high heat recovery
3. Develop smart alarms and actions to take in order to sustain high performance.

Models and smart alarms were implemented and operators were trained. The mill started to see significant savings immediately.

BENEFITS

- Recurrent savings: $600 000/year without additional CAPEX spending
- Better understanding of energy cost drivers
- Ability to quickly and objectively explain energy variations
- TMP heat recovery was sustained at a high level, even in winter.
- Return on investment for the heat recovery system was assured



ABOVE Cumulative savings for ENERGYmaestro project.