Light Manufacturing Industry

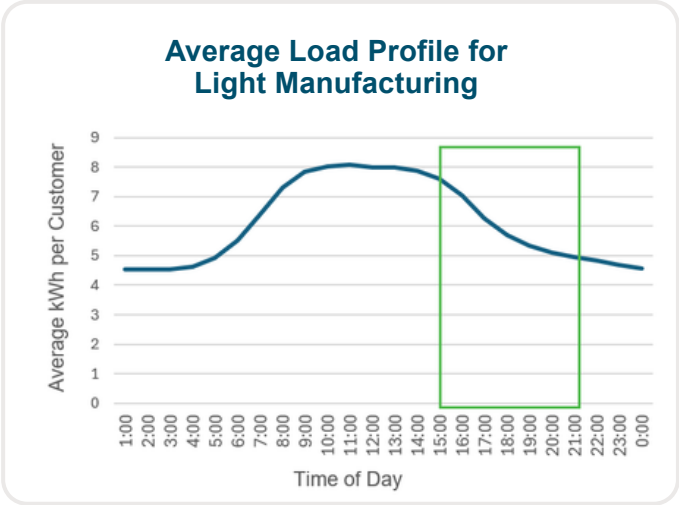


BC Hydro Demand Response Program

DEMAND OPPORTUNITY

Light Industrial offer strong demand potential as:

- They have large electrical loads such as process equipment, motors, conveyers, and production lines.
- Many facilities can use planned maintenance, inventory, or storage capacity to create operational flexibility.
- Production schedules and non-critical activities can often be shifted without affecting product quality or customer commitments.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Incentive	$50 per average kilowatt (kW) of demand reduction per season
Event Duration	Up to 20 events per season, no more than four hours each
Event Season	November 1 – March 31
Advanced Notification	One business day
Participation	Must have successfully performed in at least 50% of all events

PARTICIPATION BENEFITS

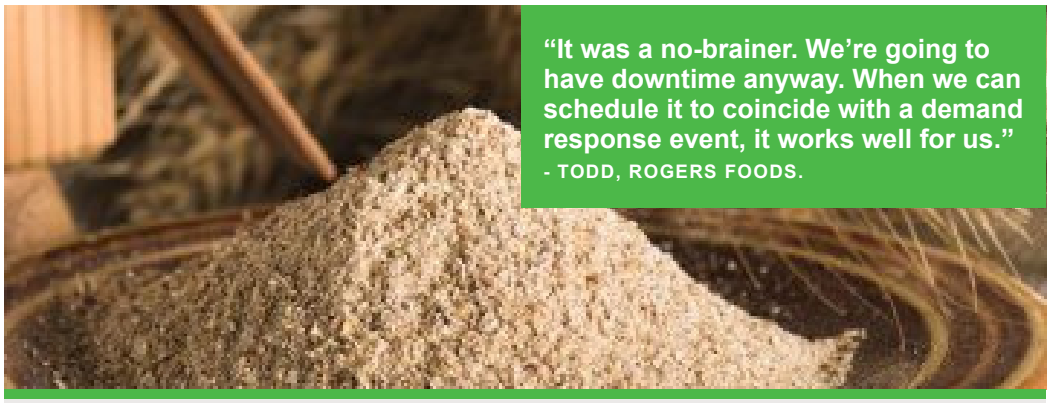
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

NO COST TO ENROLL

RISK-FREE

INDUSTRIAL DR BEST PRACTICES

- Develop a DR event plan that identifies controllable equipment, load reduction actions, monitoring requirements, and procedures before, during, and after an event.
- Assign clear roles and responsibilities so staff understand required actions and can respond effectively during DR events.
- Prioritize loads that can be adjusted through building automation systems, equipment controls, or operating procedures.
- Monitor potential impacts on operations, product quality, worker comfort, inventory, and safety, and establish clear thresholds for returning equipment to normal operation.
- Use automated controls where possible to implement DR actions quickly and consistently.
- Conduct a test event when practical to verify procedures and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Review event performance and document lessons learned to improve future participation.



“It was a no-brainer. We’re going to have downtime anyway. When we can schedule it to coincide with a demand response event, it works well for us.”
- TODD, ROGERS FOODS.

CASE STUDY: ROGERS FOODS

Rogers Foods operates flour mills in Chilliwack and Armstrong, producing flour for customers across Western Canada. Because flour milling is an energy-intensive, continuous process, the mills’ production equipment represents a significant electrical load. Both mills operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with planned maintenance scheduled regularly to keep equipment operating safely and reliably.

After learning about BC Hydro's Demand Response (DR) program, plant managers at both facilities saw participation as a straightforward opportunity to support the electricity grid, advance the company’s sustainability commitments, and receive financial incentives for operational downtime that was already required.

Participation requires coordination between plant managers, production planners, maintenance teams, and supply chain staff. Before committing to an event, the team evaluates flour and grain inventory levels, incoming wheat deliveries, storage capacity, production commitments, maintenance requirements, and the timing and duration of the DR event.

Rogers Foods has achieved strong results through its participation in the DR program. During the most recent event season, the Chilliwack facility participated in four events, achieving an average demand reduction of approximately 465 kilowatts and earning about $23,000 in incentives, while Armstrong earned approximately $20,000.

Beyond the financial benefits, participation reflects Rogers Foods’ commitment to responsible energy use and community support. It has also increased awareness of other BC Hydro energy management programs and opportunities.

Rogers Foods plans to continue participating whenever production and maintenance schedules allow. Its advice to other industrial organizations is to identify large electrical loads, operational flexibility, and activities that can be shifted without affecting product quality or customer commitments.

For Rogers Foods, the opportunity is clear: planned maintenance is necessary and scheduling it during a demand response event allows the company to support grid reliability while creating additional value from downtime that would occur anyway.

DEMAND RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

- Shift planned maintenance or equipment downtime to coincide with DR events.
- Shift non-critical production activities (e.g., packaging, or batch processing,) outside the DR window.
- Stagger the operation of large electrical equipment (e.g., motors, ovens, or processing lines).
- Power down idle or standby equipment and eliminate unnecessary base loads.
- Pause non-essential charging of electric forklifts, batteries, or other equipment.
- Reduce heating, cooling, or ventilation in non-critical or unoccupied areas.
- Reduce compressed air use and operate only required compressors.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Enroll in the program via the Demand Response Behavioural link or QR code, log into your MyHydro account and provide:

- A list of the sites you want to enroll.
- The name and contact info for the person on site who will receive event notices.

BC Hydro