Wood & Lumber Industry

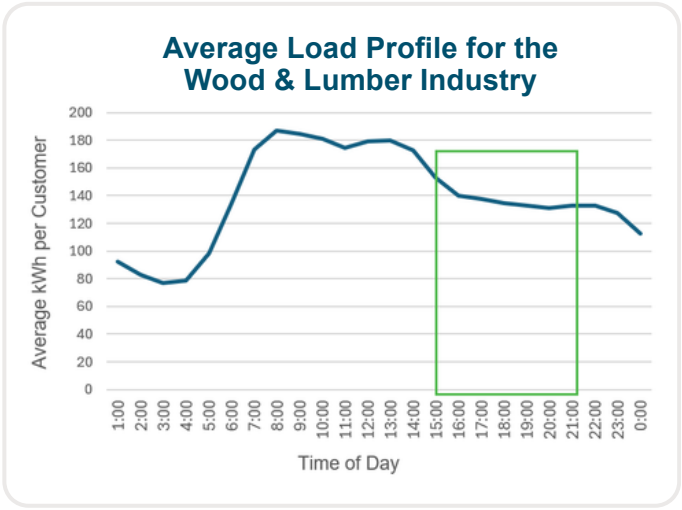


BC Hydro Demand Response Program

DEMAND OPPORTUNITY

The Wood & Lumber Industry offers demand potential as:

- They have large electrical loads such as lumber drying kilns, ventilation systems, compressors, conveyors, and other motor-driven equipment.
- Many operations can temporarily adjust equipment schedules or reduce non-critical loads without affecting safety or customer commitments
- Inventory buffers and production scheduling can provide flexibility to shift activities outside the demand response event period.



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, 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 events.
- Prioritize flexible loads such as kilns, ventilation systems, compressed air equipment, and other motor-driven processes that can be adjusted without disrupting critical operations.
- Monitor potential impacts on product quality, drying schedules, inventory, production throughput, and safety, and establish clear thresholds for returning equipment to normal operation.
- Use automated controls where possible to implement DR actions quickly and consistently, including adjustments to kiln, ventilation, and motor system operation.
- 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.



"Give it a try. Work with the people at your facility to identify what you can do. You might find a few simple opportunities that make participating worthwhile."
- JACK, COASTLAND WOOD

CASE STUDY: COASTLAND WOOD INDUSTRIES

Coastland Wood Industries operates multiple wood processing facilities across British Columbia, including veneer manufacturing, drying, remanufacturing, and log sorting operations. After learning about BC Hydro's Demand Response (DR) program through BC Hydro's Energy Manager network, the company explored where demand response could fit within its diverse operations.

Coastland's energy lead worked with site managers to identify practical ways to reduce electricity demand without affecting safety, production, or customer commitments. Measures implemented across sites included:

- Temporarily shutting down lumber drying kilns where operationally feasible.
- Adjusting heating and air conditioning in office spaces.
- Turning off lighting and other small electrical loads in unoccupied areas.

Since each facility operates differently, participation varied by site. Facilities with greater operational flexibility were able to participate more consistently and achieve larger demand reductions.

The program encouraged collaboration between energy management, operations, and site staff to identify practical demand response opportunities and determine how individual facilities could contribute. During DR events, participating sites reduced electricity demand while maintaining safe and reliable operations.

Coastland generated approximately $22,000 through the program while maintaining production priorities. While the financial incentive represented a relatively small portion of overall operating revenue, the program helped increase awareness of demand response opportunities and operational practices that can support grid reliability.

Coastland plans to continue participating in the DR program by working with individual facilities to identify opportunities that fit their unique operations. For the team, successful demand response is about finding practical, site-specific solutions rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.

DEMAND RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

- Adjust lumber drying kiln operation, including reducing drying fan airflow where feasible.
- Schedule major equipment operation outside DR periods using available storage or workflow adjustments.
- Reduce lighting in low-occupancy areas while maintaining safety.
- Reduce non-critical ventilation, including lowering VFD speeds or shutting down ventilation in unused areas where safe to do so.
- Defer non-essential maintenance and shop activities.
- Power down idle or standby equipment.
- Reduce compressed air demand and operating only the compressors required.

HOW TO 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