

Cool Cases: From the files of Ice Energy



FiberLok is the country's only licensed manufacturer of an advanced, high-performance 3-D textile material used to create logos on football and soccer uniforms, baseball caps, T-shirts and other sports collectibles.



“My employees are happier and more comfortable. Our clients are no longer disappointed. You can’t put a price on that.”

Brown Abrams, CEO



Customer: FiberLok	Utility: XCEL ENERGY
Location: Fort Collins, CO	Building Type/Size: Manufacturing Plant/50,000 sf
Energy Shifted (kWH): 70 kWH	
<p>Situation:</p> <p>Combining Northern Colorado’s hot, dry summers with FiberLok’s temperature-sensitive manufacturing process was yielding some truly challenging numbers for the company. Whenever the outside temperature topped 95 degrees, temperatures in the plant’s process area would exceed tolerance, and humidity would drop below acceptable levels. This resulted in lost production time and increased product-return costs.</p> <p>Faced with the difficult choice of halting production or risking quality-control problems, FiberLok adopted a night-shift-only summer schedule, adding \$20,000 in overtime costs to a \$11,000 monthly utility bill. All the while, the company continued to search for a solution that wouldn’t increase its peak energy load, didn’t require extra equipment to keep the relative humidity within acceptable levels, and wouldn’t necessitate excessive modification to the building’s existing air ducting.</p> <p>Estimating that it had previously spent \$100,000 or more in search of a solution – all to no avail – FiberLok found the answer in Ice.</p>	
<p>Solution:</p> <p>FiberLok installed two Ice Bear energy storage systems from Ice Energy, the leading provider of smart grid-enabled, distributed energy storage. FiberLok’s Ice Bears went right to work with its existing air-conditioning system, a move that did not require any modifications to existing ductwork or other systems.</p>	
<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production increased 18% (the equivalent of \$103,000) • \$32,000 was saved in electricity, overtime and product-return costs • The Ice Bear system paid for itself in the first year • Employees enjoyed improved comfort • Utility bills were reduced 15% 	