



“The ActOnEnergy team was very helpful and easy to work with. ActOnEnergy is a very good tool. We recommend it to our customers.”

— Gary Allen, Alliance Grain

With millions of bushels of corn and soybeans flowing through their doors every year, the folks at Alliance Grain know that good things can grow from the smallest of beginnings.

That’s why they began planting the seeds of energy efficiency at their Gibson City headquarters. Their first target was motors — an energy hog common to grain storage facilities like theirs.

Motors are critical to operations – the driving force behind aeration fans and other equipment. Motors tend to waste energy because they are oversized to accommodate maximum loads and typically offer only one speed: “on” or “off.”

To make their motors far more efficient, Alliance Grain decided to install nearly 60 variable frequency drives. VFDs enhance efficiency by using a computerized feedback system to automatically adjust the speed of the motor to match the load it is facing.

Alliance Grain then turned to the Ameren Illinois ActOnEnergy program for help.

Always happy to provide a little “seed” money to energy-conscious customers, ActOnEnergy gave Alliance Grain more than \$160,000 for the project. The incentives covered nearly 70 percent of total project costs.

“The incentives were a big help. ActOnEnergy made it possible for us to move forward with this project,” says Operations Manager Gary Allen. “We’re looking forward to seeing pretty good savings out of these VFDs.”



In fact, Alliance Grain expects to reduce its annual electrical use by 1.5 million kilowatt-hours. These energy savings will boost the bottom line by approximately \$150,000 every year — and benefit the environment, too.

“Motors equipped with VFDs don’t work any harder than they need to, which can lead to dramatic reductions in energy use,” says ActOnEnergy’s Rod Rhoads.

VFDs also reduce wear and tear on equipment, which lowers maintenance costs.

“VFDs allow a ‘soft’ start – they bring the speed of the motor up gradually, rather than going from zero to full speed,” says Allen.

The remote capabilities offered by VFDs delivered some unexpected benefits, too. Workers no longer have to walk to another location to manually turn a motor on or off. And when loading rail cars, employees can now remotely control distribution from the bins, which has reduced labor costs at Alliance Grain.

“We can now use less help when loading rail cars – it’s really nice for weekend loadings,” says Allen.

Benefits to Alliance Grain

- \$150,000 annual savings
- 1.5 million kilowatt-hours in energy savings
- Reduced maintenance
- Reduced labor costs
- Safer work environment
- Less impact on the environment



As Alliance Grain continues to reap the rewards of more efficient operations, ActOnEnergy is reaching out to help more agricultural customers use less energy and spend less.

“Our Agriculture Program offers a variety of incentives that can reduce the typical farm’s energy use,” says Rhoads. “We want to help farmers keep more money in their pockets, year after year.”



ActOnEnergy.com: A Farmer's Market of Savings



Savings & Safety

Beyond the dollar savings, new motor controls may enhance safety, too. The motor controls that were replaced at Alliance Grain were up to 40 years old. The older equipment relied on starters that would sometimes create an electrical arc when they kicked on and off. In a worst-case scenario, this could have led to an explosion.

As Operations Manager Gary Allen explains, "VFDs lead to fewer problems because they are in constant contact with the main power source. In addition to the savings they will generate, they helped us address a potentially serious safety concern."

Harvest the Savings with ActOnEnergy

It's never been easier to make your farm green! With the ActOnEnergy Agriculture Program you can apply for multiple incentives with one application.

This one-stop-shop offers financial incentives to farmers who install the following types of high-efficiency equipment at their grain or livestock farms:

- Exhaust fans
- Circulation fans
- Livestock watering containers
- Water heaters
- Lighting
- And much more . . .

Visit ActOnEnergy.com to get started.

Energy efficiency. It's good business.

In its first three years, ActOnEnergy provided more than \$18 million in incentives to help business customers save more than \$41 million in annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, VFDs, process improvements and compressed air.

Why wait?

Act On Energy today
– and save!

ActOnEnergy.com

1.866.800.0747

