B-Line manufactures metal supports and channels for cabling as well as racks and enclosures for cabling and telecommunications systems. Their production processes include milling, machining, welding, painting and electroplating metal as part of their production process. In 1994 ISTC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) engineers visited the facility and met Matt Bochantin, the plant’s new facilities engineer.

That initial meeting led to the implementation of an ultrafiltration membrane system to recover resources and recycle water so that it could be reused in the painting process. Before making this change, B-Line discharged the paint-laced water from the paint line about nine times a year. By implementing ultrafiltration technology, they have been able to recover the paint and recycle the water, reducing the discharge of the paint line water to less than once a year.

B-Line and ISTC TAP engineers have worked together on many projects through the years. “We’ve worked hand-in-hand on projects with lots of brainstorming back and forth to share technologies and best practices. It’s a 20 year relationship that has made a difference in B-Line being a good neighbor in our communities and a good steward to help the environment,” said Bochantin.

Initially B-Line was skeptical of efficiency and environmental innovations identified by their facilities engineer. The partnership with ISTC/TAP and the execution of successful projects has helped B-Line develop confidence that recommended projects will result in significant improvements to the company’s bottom line and its environmental footprint in their community.

“**We’ve worked hand-in-hand on projects, with lots of brainstorming back and forth to share technologies and best practices.**”

Matt Bochantin, Eaton’s B-Line Facilities Engineer

“**The guys from TAP provided me with the third party validation I needed to get approvals,**” said Bochantin.

**EATON B-LINE KEY STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallons of water reduced</td>
<td>4,136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of hazardous chemical usage reduced/ replaced</td>
<td>165,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kWh electricity reduced</td>
<td>1,204,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therms natural gas reduced</td>
<td>33,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metric tons of CO₂ (mt-CO₂e) emissions avoided</td>
<td>1,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual savings realized</td>
<td>$260,624</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABOUT EATON B-LINE**

Established: 1969
Location: Highland, IL
# of employees: 400
Producer of: Wiring channels, racks and supports
NAICS code: 332510
Website: www.cooperindustries.com

**ABOUT ICORE**

ICORE is a project of the ISTC Technical Assistance Program. ICORE strives to achieve significant energy and water conservation and reduced carbon emissions among Illinois’ rural communities and businesses by providing on-site technical assistance to water and wastewater treatment facilities and industrial facilities. For more information: The ICORE Project TN13-104.

Find other fact sheets and more information about ISTC’s Technical Assistance Program at: istc.illinois.edu/tech.
Since that first visit in 1994, the ISTC TAP engineers and B-Line have worked together to make B-Line more sustainable through the implementation of membrane separation and filtration technology; more efficient and higher quality lighting; counter current rinsing; metal working fluid purification and reclamation; reverse osmosis (RO) efficiency and reject water reuse; conductivity controls on rinse water; process heating efficiency; lighting controls; electric motor and pump controls; and expansion of its recycling program.

When B-Line began the lighting upgrade project, the difference in lighting quality was so drastic that the first question Bochantin was asked about the project was “Why are we putting in sky lights?” Bochantin also reported that this was the first improvement project where he received only positive comments from employees at the plant.

**Lighting Upgrade**

**Production Floor Lighting Upgrade**

B-Line mentors its industrial peers in adoption of sustainable technologies. B-Line has also sponsored two Illinois EPA summer interns and passed sustainability knowledge on to them, which better prepared these college students to enter the manufacturing and environmental work force.

The company’s efforts to reduce their environmental footprint and improve their community has earned them two Illinois Governor’s Sustainability Awards.

**Other Sustainability Practices**

- Expanded Recycling Program
- EPA Summer Intern Sponsor (2)
- IEPA Intern Training Center

**About ISTC**

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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TN14-115

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