# Seven Steps to Slagshow Your Compressed Air Electrical Costs



By Tommy McGuire

Compressed Air is so vital to industry that it is often called the "Fourth Utility"

Producing Compressed Air is one of the major energy-consumers in industry today.

Whether you are a small or large operation, you can save 20% to 50% or more of the electrical cost of operating your Air Compressor by following the energy saving tips & formulas in this book. The good news is that most of these tips cost very little to implement making this an even more cost effective approach to saving money.

> As a bonusyour maintenance costs will be less and your equipment will last longer.

In today's atmosphere of "going green"these recomendations can save wasted energy and add the "green" back to your bottom line and saving you hundreds - even thousands of dollars a year!



McGuire Air Compressors 1-888-229-9999 compressors@mcguire.biz

www.industrialaircompressors.biz

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### Compressed Air Energy Saving Tips By Tommy McGuire

### Contents

The Number One Energy Saver	PAGE . 4
What is it costing to run your air compressor? STEP 1: How to determine the Cost Of KWH STEP 2: How to figure the yearly Electrial Cost of running your air compressor	. 5 6
<i>Air leaks: Don't pay a high price for an easy fix</i> STEP 3: How to figure the Size of your Air Leaks STEP 4: How to calculate the Electrical Cost of your Air Leaks	7 8
<i>Lower the pressure and increase your energy savings</i> STEP 5: This formula helps you figure the cost of Pressure Changes	. 9
<b>Change oil and save money</b> STEP 6: How to measure your savings from changing to Synthetic Lubricants	. 10
<i>Lower your electric costs by lowering your inlet air temperature</i> STEP 7: This formula shows how to determine your electrical savings	11
Energy Savings Example Worksheet	. 12
Worksheets to copy & figure your electrical energy savings	. 13-20
Resources	21
Tool List	22



### People are the #1 Energy Savers

Whether you are a small business or a large plant with multiple compressors...you need to run as efficiently as possible. This book can help you do that! The formulas, recommendations and tips are compiled as a result of 30 years experience in the compressed air industry.

**Apply the energy saving recommendations** and other formulas to your own operation with the worksheets in the back and log your evaluations and savings. Use these time-tested tips as a great evaluation tool and you can save hundreds - even thousands - of dollars in electrical costs. Plus - these tips cost little to implement.

To insure continued savings - your business should adopt a good energy savings program and encourage your people to follow through. Support from the top down is most successful approach to saving energy. First develop the energy policy that is endorsed by senior management. Such as:

- 1- Reduce energy costs
- 2- Reduce the life cycle cost
- 3- Conserve natural resources
- 4- Reduce emissions
- 5- Enhance public perception

#### Set Goals for energy savings and lower life cycle cost. Such as:

- 1- If equipment is not needed turn it off
- 2- Keep equipment serviced
- 3- Stop-Look-Listen for unusual noise-leaks or hi-temperatures
- 4- Fix it before it breaks-down

#### Monitor energy used:

In a perfect world you would meter your air compressors electrical energy. But a more practical approach is to calculate annual savings as a percentage of energy reduction. We use the previous year's electrical cost and calculated energy saving formulas to find total energy used.

Reward those who follow your Energy Policy: Use incentives to keep your energy cost low.

#### Research & compare before you invest in compressed air equipment:

When specifying equipment look at total cost of ownership (TCO) not just the initial cost. So often initial cost is the deciding factor to select a compressed air system. While the initial cost may be only 10-20% of total cost of ownership and maintenance cost another 10%, the biggest total cost of ownership--70%-80%-- goes for energy to operate. With the ever increasing electrical energy cost, you need to look closely at the biggest cost of ownership --ENERGY.

For example, one compressor system may be cheaper to purchase, but may be more expensive to operate and maintain than another unit that may have a higher initial purchase price but operates more efficiently in the long haul.

Take the time to compare (TCO) and research first and then invest in the most energy efficient and long-term cost effective equipment.

How much does your air compressor cost you in electrical energy?

### First you need to figure Your Electrical Cost Per KWH

- 1. Find your electrical utility bill
- 2. Find your total amount due on your utility bill
- 3. From you utility bill, find the total kilowatts used
- 4. Use this FORMULA:

Total Amount Due ÷ Total KWH Used = KWH Cost



Before we see how much electricity costs, we have to understand how it's measured. When you buy gas they charge you by the gallon. When you buy electricity they charge you by the kilowatt-hour (kWh). When you use 1000 watts for 1 hour, that's a kilowatt-hour. The kilowatt hour is most commonly known as a billing unit for energy delivered to consumers by electric utilities.

# How much does your air compressor cost you in electrical energy?

### How to figure the ELECTRICAL ENGERY COST of running your Air Compressor

Use this formula:

Electrical cost = Total HP x .746 x hours x KWH cost ÷ motor efficiency

### Example:

25 HP air compressor that runs 10 hours a day 5 days a week for a year with a <u>\$.12 KWH</u> electric rate and a 90% efficient electric motor.

**To figure your total horsepower (TOTAL HP)**: Motor Data Plate HP (EX: 25HP) X 110% = <u>27.5 HP</u> *Most Air Compressors @ Max PSI Use 110% of the rated Horsepower* 

KILOWATTS per HP = .746 watts

746 watts per hour of electrical energy is required to convert to 1 Horsepower of mechanical energy. KWH= your cost per 1000 watts of electrical energy per hour.

#### Figure your YEARLY HOURS:

# Hours running per day X # days per week X # weeks per year running = The total time the equipment runs in a year.

(Example: 10 Per Day X 5 Days Wk X 52 Wks = 2600 HOURS)

**MOTOR EFFICIENCY** (EFF) can be found on the motor data plate as a percentage. (Example=<u>.90 %</u>) It is the ratio of input power minus the output power.

<u>27.5 hp x .746 x 2600 hours x \$.12 ÷ .90 = \$7111.87 per year</u>

#### **Results:**

ANNUAL ELECTRIAL COST FOR COMPRESSED AIR \$7111.87 Carry this figure forward to STEP 4

### Air leaks: Don't pay a high price for an easy fix

### How to figure the Size of your Air Leaks

Use this formula:

Load Time + Total Time = % Air Leaks

- 1. Turn Off All Air Operated End-User Equipment.
- 2. Start Your Air Compressor and let it cycle Off/On two (2) times.
- 3. Then time the next cycle.



### Example:

1. Time The Off-Line/Unload Time (Not Pumping Time) Using Your Watch. (Example: 5 Minutes)

2. Time The On-Line/Load Time (Pumping Time) Using Your Watch (Example: 2 Minutes)

3. Add The Off/Unload Time and The On/Load Time Together

Example: T(5 Minutes) + T (2 Minutes)=( Example: 7 Minutes)

2 Minutes Load Time ÷ 7 Minutes Total Time = 29%

#### **Result:**

**29%** of your air compressor's CFMs are maintaining your air leaks Carry this percentage forward to STEP 4

### Air leaks: Don't pay a high price for an easy fix

### How to determine the Electrical Cost of your Air Leaks

Use this formula:

Electrical Cost X % of Leaks = Electrical Air Leak Cost

\*Note: For our examples, we will be using the following... Electrical Cost Taken From Compressed Air Electrical Energy Cost example. Air Leak Percentage Taken From Size of Air Leaks example.



Your Response to this evaluation should be to FIX your air leaks and save a lot of money each year!

Original Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STE	P 2 \$7111.87 per year*
<u>Less savings from fixing air leaks</u>	<u>-2062.45</u>
NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compr	essed Air \$5049.42*
* C	arry this new annual cost forward into STEP 5

# Lower the pressure and increase your energy savings

### How to figure the Electrical Cost of Air Pressure Changes

Use this formula:

Pressure change ÷ 2 = % of hp change x electrial cost=change

#### \*Note:

Every 2 psig pressure change up or down equals 1% change in horsepower

Remember, pressure costs money in two ways — power to produce increased pressure, and excess pressure produces excess flow that must be compressed.

For our examples, we will be using the following... Electrical cost taken our previous example for compressed air electrical cost per year **\$5049.42** 

### **Example:**

Air compressor pumping up to 175 psig and stops. Change compressor stopping pressure to 130 psig . Pressure change 175 psig minus 130 psig = **45 psig change** 45 psig change divided by 2 = 22.5% change in horsepower NEW Yearly electrial cost= \$5049.42

<u>HP Change .225 x 5049.42 = \$1136.12 Savings</u> **Results:** Savings per year in electrial cost by lowering your air pressure 45 psig **=\$1136.12** 

### Your Response to this evaluation should be to REDUCE air pressure as much as possible without negatively affecting equipment operation...and SAVE more money

UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 4\$5049.42 per year\*Less savings from lowering air pressure-1136.12NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air\$3913.30\*

\* Carry this new annual cost forward into STEP 6

### **Reduce Electrical Costs by using** Synthetic Lubricants

### How to figure the savings you can receive by switching to **Synthetic Air Compressor Lubricants**

Compressor synthetics lubricants can actually reduce energy consumption in many applications, up to 10% as compared to conventional oils.

Special Notes:

- Do not use synthetic oil in a brand new piston compressor.
- Run compressor approximately 200 hours (to seat rings)before changing to synthetic oil.
- Screw & Vane Compressor do not need break-in time. Use same electrical line each time you check amp draw.
- With modulating inlet, take amp reading 10 psig before unit unloads

#### Use this formula:



#### 1st amp – 2nd amp = amp change ÷ 1st amp = % change x electrial cost = \$avings

### Example:

- 1. Check unit amp draw at operating temperature.
- 2. Take amp reading 1 psig before unit stops or unloads.
- 3. Note first amp reading
- 4. Change oil when unit is at operating temperature.
- 5. Run unit 200 hours
- 6. Change oil when unit is at operating temperature. (oil is mixed)
- 7. Run unit 200 hours.
- 8. Take amp reading 1 psig before unit stops or unloads.
- 9. Note second amp reading

Yearly air compressor electrical cost from previous example= \$3913.30

#### 64.6 - 59.1 = 5.5 ÷ 64.6 = .09 % x 3913.30 = \$352.20 savings

#### Results:

Electrical savings per year by switching from a mineral based oil to a Synthetic Air Compressor Lubricant = \$352.20

UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 5 Less savings from changing to Synthetic Lubriants \$3561.10\* NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air

\$3913.30 per year\* -352.20

\* Carry this new annual cost forward into STEP 7

(example 64.6)

(example 59.1)

### Reduce Electrical Costs by Lowering Your Inlet Air Temperature

### How to determine your savings you could receive by lowering your air compressor inlet temperature

Did you know that for each 5°F change in inlet air temperature can net a 1% change in electrical use? By reducing inlet air temperature 10°F below 70°F, you save 2% on electrical usage. Your benefit increases up to 8% on a 30°F degree day. Increase the compressor inlet temperature 10°F above 70°F – and it will cost you 2% in additional electrical usage for every 10°F up to 10% at 120°F. NOTE: Inlet temperature has very little effect on lubricated screw & vane compressors.

#### Use this formula:

#### Temperature change ÷ 5 = % of electrical change x electrical cost per year

#### Example:

Manufacturer's specs for 25 hp piston air compressor: 91 CFM delivered @ 175 PSIG at CAGI Standards\*

Outside temperature is 90° F. The compressor inlet air temperature in the compressor room is 120°F. Change compressor inlet temperature to outside temperature of 90° F.

120°F (minus) – 90°F = 30°F change Compressor annual electrical cost **\$3561.10** 

Temperature change 30 ÷ 5 = 6% change x \$3561.10 = \$213.67

**Results:** 

Amount saved by lowering inlet temperature = \$213.67

\* Compressed air and gas institute (CAGI) standards

@ 60°F inlet temperature

@ 14.5 PSIA absolute pressure

@ 0% relative humidity @ 55,970 BTU heat rejection

@ 770 RPM

@ 2580 CFM cooling air flow

### Your Response to this evaluation should be to LOWER your compressor inlet temperature to SAVE more money

UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 6 Less savings from lowering inlet air temperature NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air

\$3561.10 per year\* -213.67 \$3347.43\*

### Energy Savings EXAMPLE WORKSHEET

<b>USING EXAMPLE FIGURES</b> *All the EXAMPLES used in this book are implemented in the order as listed and the accumulative savings are based on each consecutive result.	Watch the Savings Grow	Watch the Electric Bill Shrink
Annual total of electrical costs of operating EXAMPLE air compressor Figured using STEP 1 & STEP 2	Use the steps and formulas provided in this book to figure your own savings.	EXAMPLE Beginning Yearly Electrical Costs \$7111.87
STEP 3 & STEP 4: LEAK REPAIRS made after Estimating savings using EXAMPLE	7111.87 original Electric Cost Less -2062.45 Savings =	\$5049.42 UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 5: PRESSURE CHANGES made using EXAMPLE figures & formula	5049.42 UPDATED Electric Cost Less -1136.12 Savings =	\$3913.30 UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 6: Savings figured from changing to SYNTHETIC COMPRESSOR OIL	3913.30 UPDATED Electric Cost Less -352.20 Savings =	\$3561.10 UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 7: Savings figured from LOWERING INLET TEMPERATURE	3561.10 UPDATED Electric Cost Less -213.67 Savings =	\$3347.43 NEW Electric Cost After implemeting the 7 Energy Saving Steps
TOTAL SAVINGS	7111.87 Original Electric Cost -3347.43 NEW Electric Cost	Yearly Electric Costs Reduced To \$3347.43
\$3764.44   Figure % of Savings   3764.44 ÷ 7111.87		53% Savings!

### Your Energy Savings STEP 1 WORKSHEET

Total Amount Due ÷ Total KWH Used = KWH Cost

### **Figure Your Electrical Cost Per KWH**

- 1. Find your electrical utility bill
- 2. Find your total amount due on your utility bill:
- 3. From you utility bill, find the total kilowatts (KWH) used \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Use this FORMULA:

### Total Amount Due ÷ Total KWH Used = KWH Cost



### Energy Savings STEP 2 WORKSHEET

Total HP x .746 x hours x KWH cost ÷ motor efficiency = Yearly Electrical Cost

# Figure the ELECTRICAL ENGERY COST of running your Air Compressor

To figure your total horsepower (TOTAL HP):

Most Air Compressors @ Max PSI Use 110% of the rated Horsepower

#### KILOWATTS per HP = .746 watts

746 watts per hour of electrial energy is required to convert to 1 Horsepower of mechanical energy. KWH= your cost per 1000 watts of electrical energy per hour.

#### Figure your YEARLY HOURS:



**MOTOR EFFICIENCY** (EFF) can be found on the motor data plate as a percentage. It is the ratio of input power minus the output power.



#### **Results:**

### ANNUAL ELECTRIAL COST FOR COMPRESSED AIR

Use this figure in STEP 4

### Energy Savings STEP 3 WORKSHEET

### Load Time ÷ Total Time = % Air Leaks

### How to figure the Size of your Air Leaks

- 1. Turn Off All Air Operated End-User Equipment.
- 2. Start Your Air Compressor and let it cycle Off/On two (2) times.
- 3. Then time the next cycle.

#### TIME COMPRESSOR:

1. Time The Off-Line / Unload Time (Not Pumping Time) Using Your Watch.

UNLOAD TIME \_\_\_\_\_minutes

2. Time The On-Line / Load Time (Pumping Time) Using Your Watch

LOAD TIME \_\_\_\_\_minutes

3. Add The Off / Unload Time and The On / Load Time Together

Total Time \_\_\_\_\_minutes

Example: T(5 Minutes) + T (2 Minutes)=( Example: 7 Minutes)

#### **Result:**

\_\_\_\_\_% of your air compressor's CFMs are maintaining your air leaks

Use this figure in STEP 4

### Energy Savings STEP 4 WORKSHEET

**Electrical Cost X % of Leaks = Electrical Air Leak Cost** 

### How to determine the Electrical Cost of your Air Leaks

<u>\$</u>	X	%	= \$		_
Compressed Air Electrical Cost	Size of Air Leaks as A	Percentage	How much A	ir Leaks Cost You Anı	ıally
Results:					
Annual Air Leak Ele	ectrical Cost	\$			
Original Compressed Air	Electrical Cost			\$	per year*
Less savings from fixin	<u>g air leaks</u>				
NEW Annual Electri	ical Cost for C	ompresse	d Air	\$* Use this figure	*

### Energy Savings STEP 5 WORKSHEET

### Pressure change ÷ 2 = % of hp change x electrial cost=change

### How to figure the Electrical Cost of Air Pressure Changes

Every 2 psig pressure change up or down equals 1% change in horsepower

Your Air compressor pumps up to psig and	stops.
Change compressor stopping pressure tops	sig .
Subtract change psig from original psig to get Pressure	e change = <mark>psig change</mark>
psig change divided by 2 =% cha	ange in horsepower
. x =\$ S	Savings
HP % Change x New Annual Electrical Cost from STEP 4	
Results:	
Savings per year in electrial cost by lowering your	air pressure \$
UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 4	\$ per year*
Less savings from lowering air pressure	
NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air	* Use this figure in STEP 6

### Energy Savings STEP 6 WORKSHEET

1st amp – 2nd amp = amp change ÷ 1st amp = % change x electrial cost=\$aving

## How to figure the savings you can receive by switching to Synthetic Air Compressor Lubricants

- 1. Check unit amp draw at operating temperature.
- 2. Take amp reading 1 psig before unit stops or unloads.
- 3. Note first amp reading \_
- 4. Change oil when unit is at operating temperature.
- 5. Run unit 200 hours
- 6. Change oil when unit is at operating temperature. (oil is mixed)
- 7. Run unit 200 hours.
- 8. Take amp reading 1 psig before unit stops or unloads.

9. Note second amp reading

UPDATED Ye	early air compressor	electrical cost from	STEP 5 = <u>\$</u>	

-	=	÷	= % x	= \$	savings

1st amp reading less 2nd amp reading Divide amp change by 1st amp reading = % change x annual electrical costs = your savings

#### **Results:**

Electrical savings per year by switching from

a mineral based oil to a Synthetic Air Compressor Lubricant \$

UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 5

Less savings from changing to Synthetic Lubriants

NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air

### Energy Savings STEP 7 WORKSHEET

### Temperature change ÷ 5 = % of electrical change x electrical cost per year

# How to determine your savings you could receive by lowering your air compressor inlet temperature

The compressor inlet air temperature in the compressor room is	°F.	
Lower compressor inlet temperature to	° <b>F.</b>	
Figure compressor inlet temperature change =	<u> </u>	
Compressor annual electrical cost brought forward from STEP 6	<u>\$</u>	
÷ 5* = % change x \$   Inlet Temperature Change Divided by 5* = % of electrical change x Elecrical cost per year a   * For each 5°F change in inlet air temperature can net a 1% change in electrical	= \$ as brought froward ical use	
Results:		
Savings realized by lowering inlet temperature \$		
UPDATED Compressed Air Electrical Cost from STEP 6 \$	per year	
Less savings from lowering inlet air temperature	·	
NEW Annual Electrical Cost for Compressed Air	\$	

### Your Energy Savings WORKSHEET

USING YOUR FIGURES	Watch Your Savings Grow	Watch Your Electric Bill Shrink
Annual total of electrical costs of operating your air compressor Figured using STEP 1 & STEP 2	Use the steps and formulas provided in this book to figure your own savings.	Beginning Yearly Electrical Costs
STEP 3 & STEP 4: LEAK REPAIRS made after estimating your savings	\$ Original Electric Cost Less - \$ Savings =	\$UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 5: PRESSURE CHANGES made using your figures	\$ Original Electric Cost Less - \$ Savings =	\$UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 6: Savings figured from changing to SYNTHETIC COMPRESSOR OIL	\$ Original Electric Cost Less - \$ Savings =	S UPDATED Electric Cost
STEP 7: Savings figured from LOWERING INLET TEMPERATURE	\$ Original Electric Cost Less - \$ Savings =	S NEW Electric Cost After implemeting the 7 Energy Saving Steps
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ Beginning Electric Cost   Less - \$ NEW Electric Cost   after STEP 7   = SAVINGS	Yearly Electric Costs Reduced To \$
		Will equal the PERCENTAGE of Savings you achieved by implementing these SEVEN STEPS to Slash Your Compressed Air Electrical Costs

### RESOURCES

### *Tommy McGuire Owner of McGuire Air Compressors*

Since 1981, Tommy has owned and operated McGuire Air Compressors in Graham, NC. Before that, he was a CERTIFIED MASTER MECHANIC in the automotive industry. He grew up working in his Dad's auto repair shop and "learned to fix almost anything."



Tommy's knowledge of air compressor systems, air dryers, controls, and related equipment is quite extensive. He even assists many engineers and contractors in determining what equipment they need for the most efficient compressed air system.

He and his staff of Certified Service Technicians have worked with compressors from  $\frac{1}{2}$  horsepower to over 700 hp. McGuire Air Compressors, Inc. is located in a 10,000 square foot facility in the heart of Piedmont North Carolina.

#### **REAL PEOPLE with REAL AIR COMPRESSOR EXPERIENCE!**

The formulas, recomendations and information in this book have been collected throughout Tommy McGuire's career in the Compressed Air Industry.

Most major resources for industry standards used in this E-book are taken from:

Compressed Air & Gas Institute, http://www.cagi.org/

US Government Department of Energy, http://www.eere.energy.gov

North Carolina State University, http://www.ncsu.edu/ DOE Level 1- Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems DOE Level 2- Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems

Formula Symbols: Add + Subtract/Less -

Divide ÷ Multiply x

Percent % Equals =

### Tools Needed To Lower Compressed Air Electrical Cost

CLIPBOARD	(keep up with the paper work)
CALULATOR	(help with the formulas)
STOP WATCH	(to check the operational times)
PEN	(to record your findings in the manual worksheets)
SCREW DRIVER	(to adjust pressure switch)
TEMP GUN	(to check the compressor inlet temperature)
AMP CLAMP METER	(to check the motor ampere draw)
ADJUSTABLE WRENCH	(to adjust switch or loose oil filler plug)
FUNNEL	(to drain and refill the compressor oil)
EMPTY PAILS	(to catch the old compressor oil)



This list tool may vary by the brand and type of compressors you have...but this will get you off to a good start.



Through these seven steps we've shown you how to perform **FOUR of the biggest compressed air energy-savers**.

There are many other compressed air electrical energy saving steps you can apply to your system - but **these SEVEN STEPS are the least expensive to implement and can provide you with the biggest savings.** 



### McGuire Air Compressors Graham, North Carolina **1-888-229-9999** compressors@mcguire.biz

Visit our web sites for more information:

www.industrialaircompressors.biz

Offering Champion Industrial Air Compressors

www.airdryers.biz Offering Deltech Refrigerated Air Dryers

www.hosereels.biz Offering Reeltech Industrial Hose Reels

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