



Booth Centennial's prestigious Energy Efficiency Award.

“For today’s fiscally challenged hospitals and health-care organizations, our ability to pass along savings is a good news story worth sharing”

Joe Grummel
General Manager
Booth Centennial Healthcare
Linen Services

Booth Centennial Healthcare Linen Services (BCHLS) is one of North America’s most innovative and trend-setting, healthcare solutions providers. Headquartered in the Greater Toronto Area, Booth Centennial delivers customized healthcare linen programs, cost-effective, sterilization and linen re-processing services and total microfiber cleaning systems to Ontario’s finest healthcare organizations.

Booth Centennial discovers how a little ingenuity can lead an industry...

Booth Centennial is not your typical commercial laundry facility. It is a 250,000 sq. ft. linen re-processing and sterilization centre that is tasked with ensuring that Ontario’s finest hospital and healthcare centres have clean, quality linen – seven days a week. With that kind of responsibility, comes enormous water, power and energy requirements.

Operating a large capacity, laundry operation necessitates the use of sizeable equipment such as plant boilers, industrial sized washers, dryers and steam tunnels. When the equipment runs day in and day out, it can create various obstacles to environmental efficiencies. Steam tunnels utilize a significant amount of water and energy resources to operate. Plant boilers continually produce steam which is released and wasted away. Plus, when you’re running 7 days a week, you have lighting, heat/air conditioning and plant equipment continuously utilizing sizeable amounts of energy.

“As a company that prides itself on delivering innovative solutions to our healthcare clients, it was high time we looked at ourselves and how we could develop innovative, new strategies designed to reduce our own energy consumption”, says Joe Grummel, General Manager of Booth Centennial. And what happened next to Booth Centennial was history in the making.

Innovative thinking leads to success.

Booth Centennial established a cross-functional ‘Green’ team comprised of key individuals from management and front line maintenance employees. The challenge was simple: improve energy efficiencies and reduce the environmental footprint. After a thorough analysis, the team ultimately focused on three primary initiatives:

1. Eliminate high energy consumption equipment.

The Green Team recognized that an ancient, large, steam tunnel that was used to process hospital scrubs was utilizing a significant amount of water and energy resources to operate. The team was determined to shut down this inefficient process. After researching alternative processing methods, a solution was found. By adding a



fabric relaxant solution in the wash process, the cotton-blend garments became relaxed and virtually free of wrinkles eliminating the need for the steam tunnel. “According to the end customer, our new solution was ‘as good’ as treating the garments in a steam tunnel, and we have effectively improved our energy efficiencies”, says Grummel.

2. Develop innovative water and energy efficiencies.

Next, the Green Team focused on how to utilize the over-supply of steam produced in the plant boilers. After several experiments, the team engineered a process by which the ‘free’ steam from the boilers could be employed to heat the water used in the wash process. The result? Energy/gas (Therm) usage dropped by nearly 22%. The team also discovered that they could further save energy by introducing steam into all six of the wash tunnels, effectively raising the water temperature inside and saving on hot water tank usage. In addition, in partnership with a chemical supplier the team experimented with a new, low-temperature oxygen solution especially formulated for tunnel washers that would replace the need for high-temperature chemicals which required greater use of hot water. The experiments were a significant success.

3. Count every kilowatt.

The team also wanted to demonstrate corporate responsibility and ensure that Booth Centennial was utilizing every kilowatt of energy efficiently. After a thorough analysis, the team implemented a SMART System throughout the 250,000 square foot facility. The system manages the lighting, heat/air conditioning and plant equipment on a time-controlled computer which is strategically set to specific days and hours each day. Lighting and heat/air-conditioning is automatically turned on or off throughout different areas of the plant as needed – as opposed to the previous system where there were no controls in place, causing unnecessary energy consumption. The key

impact was a significant energy and cost reduction.

Booth Centennial experiences history in the making.

The success the Green Team experienced over several months was nothing short of extraordinary.

Eliminating high energy consumption equipment led to significant reductions in staff time and equipment, and the unnecessary use of additional water and chemicals. Re-engineering “free steam” from the plant boilers reduced the plant’s energy/gas (therms) usage by 25%. Transitioning to “low temperature” wash chemicals further reduced water usage by over 24 million gallons per fiscal year. And introducing a SMART “energy efficient” system throughout the operation ensures that lights and power are utilized only when needed – drastically saving energy and costs.

The result of these successes led Booth Centennial to be awarded the prestigious, “Energy Efficiency Award” from the Ontario Hospital Association and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. “While winning an award is always a distinguished event, what makes this even more extraordinary is that this is the first time in history that a non-hospital has won the award. And we think that makes us very special,” says Grummel.”

The healthcare industry shares the benefits.

Booth Centennial has always been an innovator. An organization dedicated to developing innovative programs and partnerships designed to achieve energy efficiencies and increased cost savings.

According to Grummel, “It is such a fantastic feeling to know that these results can be achieved with a commitment, a good team and a little creativity. We intend to share our practices throughout the industry. If the positive results we see at BCHLS can carry

over into laundry operations all across Canada, we could soon see a significant reduction in the carbon footprint within our industry. And when clients save money and our industry saves energy, it’s a win-win for everyone.”

“We have challenged our team to continue to develop new cost-saving strategies so we can pass along the savings directly to our members. And for today’s fiscally challenged hospitals and healthcare organizations, that’s a good news story worth sharing”, muses Grummel.

About Booth Centennial

Booth Centennial Healthcare Linen Services (BCHLS) is one of North America’s most innovative and trend-setting, healthcare solutions providers. Headquartered in the Toronto area, Booth Centennial is owned by twenty-three (23) member hospitals and long term care facilities and has been providing laundry and linen services to Ontario’s healthcare community since 1968.

What began as a simple laundry operation has now blossomed into the largest, single-site, linen re-processing and sterilization centre in North America. Booth Centennial now delivers customized healthcare linen programs, cost-effective, sterilization and linen re-processing services and total microfiber cleaning systems to Ontario’s finest healthcare organizations.

For more information please visit:

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