



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Sonoco Protective Solutions and Eversource Partner on Energy-Saving Improvements

*Local Connecticut manufacturer to save \$76,000 in annual energy costs*

**PUTNAM, Conn. – July 11, 2018** – Sonoco Protective Solutions is North America’s leading provider of protective packaging, components, and material handling solutions. When Plant Manager Reid Chamberlin set out on a five-year plan to upgrade Sonoco’s 50-year-old Putnam facility, energy efficiency played a key role.

“I knew we had to get the building weathertight again and upgrade several key pieces of equipment,” said Chamberlin. “We reached out to Eversource, and they challenged us to look at the bigger picture and take a comprehensive approach to the energy-saving improvements.”

Sonoco worked with Eversource and Loureiro Engineering Associates Inc. to conduct an energy usage assessment of its equipment and systems. The assessment identified nearly 20 projects which addressed the facility’s infrastructure and production hardware in order to reduce Sonoco’s overall energy use.

“For manufacturers, there are opportunities to save energy in the operation and maintenance of the facility itself, and with the equipment used in the manufacturing process,” said Eversource Energy Efficiency spokesperson Enoch Lenge. “Connecticut is home to more than 5,000 manufacturers, and they play a big role in our state’s economy. Being able to connect them to solutions for savings is very important to us, as it reduces their operating costs and keeps them competitive in the state and beyond.”

Sonoco installed new boiler economizers, which reduce energy consumption by recycling waste heat, high efficiency LED lighting to brighten the facility’s interior, steam system upgrades and insulation to piping, and new variable frequency drives to manage the speed and energy usage of its motorized pumps. Eversource secured Energize Connecticut incentives for Sonoco to offset the cost of upgrades.

The Putnam manufacturer is now saving more than \$76,000 in annual energy costs, is operating more efficiently than ever, and is two to three years ahead of its improvement plan, according to Mr. Chamberlin.

“We operate across the country, and our Putnam location has become our flagship facility for efficient energy use,” said Chamberlin. “We’ve seen a tremendous reduction in energy costs and per part production expenses, plus our overall capacity has increased. We’ve doubled our production with little impact to labor and production hours based on the improvements we made with Eversource’s support.”

Sonoco now operates most of its processes, which require steam heat, on a single boiler. With this renewed, reliable steam heat, its waste scrap levels have dropped by 90 percent, which will contribute to the reduction of significant greenhouse gas emissions.

The overall electricity and natural gas savings delivered by the upgraded equipment over its lifetime is equivalent to more than 8,200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided, or nearly 1,900 cars taken off the road for a year.

For more information on Energize Connecticut's business energy solutions administered by Eversource, please visit [EnergizeCT.com/your-business](https://www.energizect.com/your-business) or call 877.WISE.USE (877-947-3873).

***About Energize Connecticut***

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Green Bank, Eversource, UI, SCG and CNG, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at [EnergizeCT.com](https://www.energizect.com).

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