



**CONCENTRIC HELPS KEEP CAMPBELL'S
EQUIPMENT RUNNING
AT ITS NAPOLEON, OHIO FACILITY**

Campbell's Soup Co. has been a community leader in Napoleon, Ohio for nearly 100 years, and has always aimed to be an efficient, environmentally friendly and beneficial community presence.

The company began operating near the shore of the Maumee River in 1938 when it started producing V8 beverages at the facility, and added soup canning to its roster 19 years later.

Over the years, it grew its capabilities and expanded its operations, and the now 2.4 million square foot facility is spread over 949 acres. A 33-foot-tall tomato soup can stands outside the facility, a roadside attraction and tribute to the company's iconic role in feeding America.

Addressing equipment availability challenges

Like most food-processing facilities, driving efficiency gains is a constant focus. When feeding families globally, how you make, move and ship your product means material handling equipment and processes are no exception. Napoleon's green heritage means that owning and taking care of assets over a long time, rather than swapping them quickly, has always been core to their operating philosophy.

This philosophy requires a data-driven maintenance approach to all critical equipment. Three years ago, however, they had an issue with their forklift/mobile equipment maintenance providers. The Napoleon plant had an average of 20 inoperable forklifts at any given time, and all 16 of its automated guided vehicles (AGVs) weren't functional. This doesn't support productivity in any kind of facility, but with a plant open 24/7, 363 days a year, it was critical that these assets were brought back online.

Due to a strong relationship at another Campbell's plant in Texas, the company reached out to Concentric to implement a similar program. Campbell's and Concentric had built a best practice together starting in 2013, improving uptime and reducing maintenance costs significantly at their Paris facility. In 2016, they now wanted to implement it more broadly.

Concentric worked to get as many assets back up and running quickly. Today, Campbell's Napoleon facility benefits from 99 percent equipment availability. All 16 AVGs are fully operational, and the average number of out-of-service forklifts is less than three out of 214 trucks.

Data drives better decisions

From day one, Concentric collected data about equipment usage and performance to help inform faster, smarter decisions about repairs and replacements. The data was focused on Campbell's operations – down to the work-order level.

The company appreciated the transparency and upfront, detailed information so much that they expanded their contract with Concentric to include dock doors and over 5,000 racking positions. The relationship is currently expanding to all of Campbell's high velocity facilities.

The data Campbell's now has access to enabled them to reduce costs by between 28 and 30 percent within three years. Facility managers at the plant say they're enjoying the best quality metrics they've ever had.

Dedicated to efficiency

Campbell's strives to keep its operations as efficient as possible. In 2011, a 9.8MW solar array went live at the facility, one of five solar projects across four U.S.

Campbell's facilities. The 24,000-panel array at the company's Napoleon facility contributes about 15 percent of the plant's electricity consumption and reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by about 250K metric tons.

Additionally, the company added a 2.8 MW biodigester to the grounds, which converts fruit and vegetable waste to methane, powering two generators. It also diverts waste from local landfills, making the community more energy efficient as well.

Initiatives like these help Campbell's facility in Napoleon save money and energy. While maintaining equipment, increasing uptime and delivering data-driven material handling decisions are a bit more behind-the-scenes than solar arrays and biodigesters, these actions are another way Campbell's has pushed forward for a more cost- and energy-efficient operation.

888.691.8100

concentricusa.com/contact/