Central Car Wash

Pawtucket, RI

"The benefits go well beyond energy savings."

For a commercial car wash, continuous running of dryer motors heightens the cost of doing business. The installation of variable speed drives at Central Car Wash is designed to reduce electrical power needs by up to 30%. To eliminate the energy waste caused by frequent stops and starts. And to prolong motor life by limiting periods of full-load operation.

Andreas Andreopoulos
Owner

"A typical drying chamber only needs to run 50% to 60% of the time. This monitors that process."

It takes five times the energy to start a dryer motor than to run it. The VFD controls automatically stay engaged if another vehicle is approaching – or idle down when there is no vehicle within 30 feet. In warmer months, blowers are programmed to run at lower speeds.

"The new controls are tied into our existing automation system."

Gradual motor rampup and wind-down helps minimize power usage and device wear-and-tear. Equipped with a backup conveyor drive, the VFD controls were installed in two days with no interruption to daily operations.

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Fan Dryer Control

with variable speed drives

$2,800
projected yearly savings

$14,700
utility incentive

21-month
payback

Central Car Wash — a full-service operation equipped with one of the longest interior service bays in Rhode Island — can accommodate up to 60 vehicles per hour during peak periods.