Energy Efficiency at Gallo Vineyards
Conserving Water and Energy in the Vineyard

Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) offers incentives and rebates to help improve energy efficiency in irrigation well pumps and booster pumps. The program includes education, technical assistance, pump efficiency testing, and pump repairs. Visit www.pumpefficiency.org to learn more.

Environmental Stewardship at E. & J. Gallo Winery
E. & J. Gallo Winery has maintained a steadfast commitment to the environment since its beginning in the 1930s. The family-owned company has continued to lead efforts to protect and enhance the land and wildlife habitat through sustainable agriculture. For instance, they have been involved with the California Code of Sustainable Winegrowing and related programs since inception in 2002.

Farming over 12,000 acres of winegrapes throughout the Central Valley, Gallo has worked with PG&E to implement the following practices to conserve water and energy in their vineyards:
- Flow meters on all water sources to track usage
- Regular tests and maintenance of water pumps
- Uniform drip irrigation distribution
- Variable Frequency Drives (VFD’s) to cut down on energy usage

“"We test our pumps every year. We were aware of PG&E’s pump testing rebate program and their intention to try to get people to be as proactive as possible in conserving energy. By saving the water that we do, we’re also saving the energy it costs to pump that water.\n"”

– ALAN REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR GALLO VINEYARDS INC.—CENTRAL VALLEY OPERATIONS

Pump Efficiency
PG&E’s Agricultural Pumping Efficiency Program (www.pumpefficiency.org) is a comprehensive effort to improve energy and water efficiency in California. The program helps to install and maintain high-efficiency pumps in the field. PG&E also offers education seminars on water management, helping farmers develop the skills needed to identify an efficient pump, maintain an efficient pump, understand water needs, and track how much water is being pumped.

PG&E will pay rebates directly to participating pump test companies for efficiency tests provided every two years. Using approved pump-testing companies, growers can test their pumps for a reduced cost to achieve maximum efficiency. Gallo Vineyards was able to take advantage of this PG&E program to help regularly test and maintain water pumps.
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“We’re trying to utilize less water per ton of grapes produced. The way we monitor our water use is with meters on all of our sources, whether it be ground water wells, river water, or canal water. This helps us know exactly how much we’re using out in the field.”

– ALAN REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR GALLO VINEYARDS INC.—CENTRAL VALLEY OPERATIONS

Water Management to Reduce Costs

By monitoring the amount of water that is pumped, Gallo Vineyards is able to track exactly how much water is allocated to each block. This, in turn, allows for the development of a very specific water management plan and a highly controlled growing environment. Gallo Vineyards has the ability to ensure that no unnecessary water is pumped, resulting in more efficient energy and water use, and higher quality grapes.

CSWA & PG&E Partnership

The California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance (CSWA)—a non-profit organization that promotes the adoption of sustainable practices by California wineries and vineyards—has been partnering with PG&E since 2005 to host workshops and develop educational materials to help vintners and growers improve the energy efficiency of their operations. To view the most recent CSWA/PG&E educational videos, visit www.sustainablewinegrowing.org/media. For more information and a calendar of upcoming workshops, visit www.sustainablewinegrowing.org.

Next Steps with PG&E

Contact your PG&E Account Representative to enhance your operation’s overall energy efficiency potential and to take advantage of potential cost savings and rebates.

For more information, call the Agricultural Customer Service Center at 1-877-311-FARM (3276) or visit www.pge.com/winery.