



Tips for Sustainable Air Leak Management Program

Action	What or How?	Why?
Determine actual air leak and inappropriate usage loss rates	Use air flow meters For air systems (<200 HP) use the start/stop or load/unload ratios.	This will help you to understand the extra wear and tear on your compressed air system and also help with the economic evaluation of the cost of air leaks.
Pinpoint air leak locations	Use an ultrasonic acoustic leak detector to identify leaks and give an indication of the size or intensity	If you don't know where the leaks are physically located, you cannot repair them.
Prioritize leak repair	Fix the largest and most obvious leaks first to get the biggest savings	20% of the leak points typically result in 80% of the air leakage. Fixing the biggest leaks first has the quickest payback and also helps employees to become aware of the sustainable air leak prevention process.
Calculate the cost of air leaks	The cost of air leaks is a function of leak size, system pressure, compressor type and compressor controls. This cost typically includes electricity, replacement parts and estimated lost productivity.	Knowing the total air leak cost is useful when you need to evaluate the cost, benefit and payback of improvement projects.
Adjust compressor controls	As air leaks are repaired, reevaluate and readjust the compressor controls periodically.	Ongoing energy savings are a function of how well the compressor controls are functioning.
Document leak repairs	Show where the leaks are occurring and how large they are.	Showing the number of repaired air leaks and the corresponding cost savings can help management to allocate the right level of resources to a sustainable program.
Seek to find patterns in air leaks	Characterize the type of leak to find out equipment or procedures that are at the root cause of air leaks.	Purchasing decisions can be changed to procure improved quality components. Procedures can be implemented for the correct installation of components.
Shut off air to equipment when the job is done	Only operate equipment to the appropriate job requirement time.	Air that is being used beyond the time that is necessary to get the job done wastes energy and costs money.
Isolate abandoned air lines	Apart for safety reasons, shut off air to abandoned or inactive zones of the mine.	Air leaks in abandoned, or inactive, parts of the mine continue to waste energy and cost money.

**REMEMBER TO REPEAT THE PROCESS OF FIXING AIR LEAKS.
AS AIR LEAKS CONTINUE TO OCCUR OVER TIME, THE PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE ONGOING.**

You can
make a
difference.
Fix Leaks.
Cut Costs.
Save Energy.