Background

The Aveda Corporation is the Minneapolis based manufacturer of pure plant products for hair and skin care. They are a recognized environmental leader, winning numerous awards over the years for their environmental achievements and their commitment to a healthy workplace.

In 1992 Aveda contacted their local utility about auditing their facility to identify energy conservation options. They requested that renewable energy solutions be explored and prioritized. When the audit was complete, it recommended, among other things, the installation of a SolarWall® air heating system to further improve indoor air quality, and to correct a negative pressure problem.

Aveda was receptive to the recommendations, and given that the technology was renewable, would guarantee a high level of indoor air quality, was maintenance free, was ideally suited for an industrial application, and had a payback of under 3 years, they decided to proceed with the installation of a SolarWall system at their manufacturing complex.

Solution

A 1,270 ft² (120 m²) SolarWall system was installed on the upper south bay wall, which extends above the lower roof of the office portion of the complex. The fresh air is drawn through the cladding, into a heat pump, and is distributed in the building via ducting. The preheated ventilation air has led to a very high standard of indoor air quality, and has reduced energy consumption at Aveda by approximately 4,000 therms each year. Thomas Balf, the Environmental Affairs Director at Aveda at the time stated that they “were impressed by the system’s simplicity and efficiency.”

Aveda’s commitment to continuous self-improvement, whether it be in terms of its products or its methods of production, continues to bring enormous success to the company.