

Sustainability by implementing Water Management

Ulrich Boehm, Envirochemie GmbH, Germany

Introduction

The dairy sector started to deal with sustainability much earlier than other industries, due to its business which is close to nature. Dealing with sustainability and CSR is a necessary requirement, because retailers as well as customers demand for information about this topic. Additionally customers want to see sustainability and added value on a regional level. One part of the solution to tackle this topic and to meet the requirements of the different stakeholders is to deal with sustainability in the production of the own dairy.

Aim

In the past years the energy management was a driving factor to preserve energy in the production. However improving the water footprint by saving water is more difficult than saving energy due to the fact that it is used in different processes with different qualities. For example water which is used in cooling towers needs another quality than water in steam boilers. Additionally lots of dairies discharge their wastewater direct in rivers and therefore authorities focus on these dairies.

Methods

Furthermore limited capacity of providing water and cleaning wastewater is even in Europe a threat for increasing the production of dairies. Hence water management should be implemented to prevent full production capability.

Therefore water technology specialists have to analyze the site and suggest possibilities of water saving measurements for example by introducing new technologies or intelligent systems of water reuse. Energy management showed in the past that it has to be installed permanently as CIP to achieve permanent savings.

Conclusion

In the past energy management showed also that continuous addressing the topic is not only for meeting the interest of authorities, retailers or customers but saving energy is equal to saving costs. The unlocked potential in the area of saving water is today even higher!