Case Study: Steam Boiler

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Background:

While conducting energy audit at a textile company, the efficiency of a coal fired boiler was observed to be unusually low.

Operating Scenario:

The boiler efficiency was computed by indirect as well as direct method as under.

Indirect Method:

- Combustion efficiency with the help of flue gas analyzer
- Insulation losses with the help of thermal imaging camera
- Combustible in ash through analysis
- Blow down & other losses through assessment

Direct Method:

- Consumption of water and fuel during the specified period of time
- Enthalpy of water and steam

The efficiency was observed to be lower due to poor combustion efficiency.

Energy Conservation Measures:

The above concerns and issues were addressed by

- Adjusting the air to fuel ratio by tuning the boiler
- Streamlining the coal firing rate and methodology
- Re-sizing the grate area

Outcome:

• The overall saving of 15% was realized in the boiler fuel consumption.

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