

## Wet 'n' Wild saves more than \$230K through project with Hawaii Energy



Wet 'n' Wild Hawaii Assistant General Manager Chris Norman walks a Hawaii Energy advisor through the water park's 30-acre property.  
HAWAII ENERGY

By [Elizabeth 'Ufi](#) – Reporter, Pacific Business News  
Nov 4, 2024

[Wet 'n' Wild Hawaii](#) is saving big on its energy bill after working with Hawaii Energy, executives from the two organizations shared with Pacific Business News.

Earlier this year, the West Oahu water park finished the installation of 17 variable frequency drives, or VFDs, to enhance controls over the motors on its water pumps,

which conserves its energy consumption. Without a VFD, the motor would either run full speed or need to shut off, a spokesperson from the state’s energy conservation program said in an email to PBN.

“The project was a big deal for us because it not only increased the reliability of our motors but also [its] efficiency in that we were able to take the power consumption of our motors down drastically,” Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii Assistant General Manager Chris Norman said in a video release.



expand

Chris Norman, Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii assistant general manager, left, and Rachael Mathers, energy advisor at Hawaii Energy, looks at a variable frequency drive installed at the water park.

HAWAII ENERGY

After Hawaii Energy’s initial audit, Wet ‘n’ Wild contracted Kapolei-based Aina Electrical Services and Pearl City-based Brotherhood Builders to install the VFDs, the park’s General Manager Scott Loos told PBN in an email. In July 2023, 14 VFDs were installed then another three in March and two more will be added in the future, Loos added.

According to its website, Hawaii Energy offers services to “make your business more efficient and boost your bottom line.” It also helps businesses find contractors for energy initiatives, shares energy-saving tips and offers rebates.

“Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii is one of the most recognizable facilities in the state and impacts the lives of so many residents, so we are very excited to see them invest in clean energy

technologies,” Hawaii Energy Executive Director Caroline Carl said. “The VFD project is impressive considering the scope of their facility.”

According to Carl, Hawaii Energy provided a rebate of about \$134,800 covering about 40% of the project cost.

“Wet ‘n’ Wild also utilizes a ‘revolving fund’ cash flow model, where money they save on their electricity bill as a result of the upgrade goes toward future energy-saving projects,” Carl added.

In the first year of installation, Wet ‘n’ Wild said the project saved the park 900,000 kilowatt-hours in annual energy savings and more than \$230,000.

“Some of these savings that we’re hoping to see in the future with all of these renewable energy products [will] allow us to put in new rides, create greater customer experience, and most importantly, maintain some of our pricing so our product can be affordable for all the residents of Oahu,” Loos said in a video release.

Other energy initiatives by the park include [the expansion](#) of its 1.3-megawatt solar carport system, with an additional solar photovoltaics with a Tesla Megapack battery energy storage system, the company previously reported.

Loos expects to save more than \$300,000 once the expansion project, which launched in October, is complete. The battery storage system will allow the water park to run off its own energy during the nighttime peak hours and sell back power generated to the grid. Its existing 440-watt solar panels covering most of the carports in the parking lot was [installed in 2021](#) by Honolulu-based solar company Sunspear Energy.

The new system expansion will add another 252 solar PV panels, Loos said.

---



expand

Wet'n'Wild General Manager Scott Loos, right, next to Assistant General Manager Chris Norman, working with a Hawaii Energy expert on implementing innovative technology to bring down the park's energy consumption.

HAWAII ENERGY

### **Wet 'n' Wild's first-year savings:**

- \$230,000 Wet 'n' Wild's first-year cost savings
- 900,000 KWH in energy savings

**Hawaii Energy's rebate on this project: \$134,800**

[Wet 'n' Wild saves on energy consumption through project with Hawaii Energy - Pacific Business News](#)