

HVM Executes High-Efficiency Preventive Maintenance Outage for Waste-to-Energy Facility

HVM partnered with a waste-to-energy facility to execute a compressed preventive maintenance outage that supported operational reliability, improved visibility into aging electrical assets, and minimized downtime through coordinated, high-efficiency execution.

Background

A waste-to-energy facility partnered with HVM to perform preventive maintenance during a scheduled plant outage. The facility operates as a base load generation plant, running continuously for much of the year to convert municipal waste into energy. To maintain reliability and performance, the plant conducts semi-annual maintenance outages, along with a more extensive “cold iron” outage every four years that allows plant-wide maintenance activities to be completed across electrical systems, turbines, cranes, cooling systems, and other critical infrastructure.

HVM has supported the customer for nearly a decade, developing a strong working relationship with the facility’s Maintenance Director and operations team through consistent service, technical expertise, and responsive support. Discussions regarding this preventive maintenance scope had taken place over several years, and the project was ultimately awarded approximately three weeks before the scheduled outage window.

Due to weather-related scheduling challenges and the coordination of other contractors and outage activities, the customer and HVM aligned on a strategy to complete the preventive maintenance scope during a concentrated weekend outage. The approach was designed to maximize efficiency while minimizing operational disruption and maintaining the outage schedule.

Company Profile

This company operates waste-to-energy facilities across the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States, converting municipal waste into usable energy to support local power demands. Reliable plant operations are critical, as these facilities operate as base-load generation plants and require consistent up time to maintain energy production and operational efficiency.

Industry

Renewable Energy / Waste-to-Energy

Location

Northeast and Midwest, United States

Benefits

- Reduced outage duration through a coordinated high-efficiency maintenance strategy
- Improved visibility into transformer condition through oil sampling and dissolved gas analysis (DGA)
- Supported long-term asset management planning for aging electrical infrastructure
- Strengthened customer confidence through safe, flexible, and responsive execution
- Expanded opportunities for future outage and maintenance support at additional facilities

Challenge

Executing the outage presented several operational and logistical challenges. The project was awarded shortly before the scheduled outage, leaving limited time for planning, scheduling, and resource coordination. At the same time, HVM was also supporting another plant outage during the same week, requiring careful technician scheduling and coordination across multiple sites.

The customer was also concerned about the condition of several aging transformers within the facility. Reports of gas-related issues raised concerns about transformer health and the potential need for replacement. However, due to budget and capital planning considerations, the customer's goal was to extend the operational life of the equipment for several additional years if possible. The compressed outage schedule required all preventive maintenance activities to be completed safely and efficiently within a two-day window while coordinating around ongoing plant operations and other contractor activities. During execution, one transformer supplying power to the turbine deck could not be fully de-energized as originally planned due to operational requirements, requiring real-time adjustments to the outage plan.

Solution

HVM worked closely with the customer to execute a high-efficiency preventive maintenance strategy tailored to the compressed outage schedule. A team of 12 technicians completed the outage safely and on schedule over two days. The scope included testing four medium-voltage transformers, eight medium-voltage air breakers, ten vacuum breakers, and six low-voltage breakers. HVM also performed oil sampling, supported dissolved gas analysis (DGA) for facility transformers, and troubleshooted multiple 480-volt low-voltage rack-in breakers identified during the outage.

Work sequencing and coordination were managed collaboratively between HVM and the customer to align with plant operations and outage requirements. The team also adapted to operational changes when one transformer supplying the turbine deck could not be fully de-energized as originally planned.

Safety remained a priority throughout execution, with HVM personnel completing required customer safety training prior to beginning work. Oil sampling and DGA testing also provided valuable insight into transformer condition and asset health, supporting future maintenance planning and equipment life extension.

The successful outage further strengthened the customer relationship and expanded future maintenance opportunities. Following the project, HVM was invited to support outage planning efforts at the customer's New Hampshire facility and was awarded a transformer oil replacement project for two aging transformers during a planned outage in late Summer 2026.

Results

- ✓ All preventive maintenance activities were completed safely and within the planned two-day outage window
- ✓ The compressed outage strategy minimized operational disruption and supported plant reliability
- ✓ Oil sampling and DGA testing provided improved visibility into transformer condition and aging risks
- ✓ Coordinated execution demonstrated HVM's flexibility and resource capabilities during overlapping outages
- ✓ The customer expressed a high level of satisfaction with HVM's execution, communication, and technical expertise

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