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A leading animation studio's collaboration with K&N Engineering exemplifies how thoughtful innovation can drive meaningful environmental and economic benefits. By replacing disposable HVAC filters with durable, washable alternatives, the studio has taken a significant step toward achieving its sustainability objectives. This particular case study serves as a model for other organizations seeking to enhance their environmental stewardship while also realizing cost efficiencies.

## CASE STUDY: ANIMATION STUDIO

### A CREATIVE CAMPUS CONTINUES ITS DRIVE TOWARD ZERO WASTE WITH K&N FILTERS

#### PROJECT:

Leading Animation Studio

#### LOCATION:

Southern California

#### USE CASE:

Large Multi-Building Campus

#### EQUIPMENT:

Rooftop Units



#### OVERVIEW:

Recognized worldwide for its iconic films, the studio also nurtures a culture that emphasizes innovation, diversity, and environmental stewardship. It is committed to sustainability, integrating eco-friendly practices into both operations and storytelling. In recent years, the studio has intensified its efforts to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill certification, a process that requires diverting at least 90% of waste from landfills. As of 2025, it has successfully diverted over 87% of its campus-wide waste, positioning itself as a leader in corporate sustainability.

K&N ENGINEERING  
14 LONGITUDE WAY,  
CORONA, CA 92881



IMPROVED AIRFLOW  
PERFORMANCE



REDUCED WASTE  
AND CARBON IMPACT



WASHABLE AND  
EASY TO CLEAN



ENGINEERED FOR  
LASTING DURABILITY



FAST RETURN  
ON INVESTMENT





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## CHALLENGE:

Despite significant progress in waste diversion, the studio identified an area with substantial environmental impact: disposable HVAC filters. These filters, typically replaced quarterly, contributed approximately 2,800 pounds of waste annually. The operations team recognized an opportunity to further reduce landfill contributions by adopting a more sustainable solution.

## SOLUTION:

The studio partnered with K&N Engineering, a company renowned for its high-performance, washable, and reusable filters. K&N's filters are designed for longevity and can be cleaned and reused for years, significantly reducing waste and the frequency of replacements.

The pilot program involved replacing traditional disposable HVAC filters across the studio's campus with K&N's washable filters. This initiative aligned with their sustainability goals and offered a practical solution to further minimize environmental impact.

## KEY RESULTS:

### POLLUTION ELIMINATED

• 24,510 LBS OF CO<sub>2</sub> PER YEAR (98%)

### PAYBACK PERIOD

• LESS THAN 3 YEARS

### FILTER EFFECTIVENESS

• UP TO 10 YEARS

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The adoption of K&N washable filters enabled the studio to divert an additional 1% of its waste from landfills annually, contributing to its ongoing journey toward Zero Waste to Landfill certification. This initiative underscores the studio's commitment to environmental responsibility and its proactive approach to sustainability.

This initiative also led to a dramatic reduction in associated carbon emissions. By eliminating the need for continuous delivery of disposable filters to the facility, the studio was able to reduce carbon emissions by over 98%. In real terms, this translated to the elimination of 25,410 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and 83,868 delivery miles driven over the life of the filters. This underscores their proactive approach to sustainability and its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

## SOCIAL IMPACT:

The studio has cultivated a culture where sustainability is integral to its identity. They offer internal sustainability tours and encourages employees to participate in initiatives that promote environmental stewardship. This hands-on involvement fosters a sense of pride and community among staff, reinforcing the company's dedication to making a positive impact on the world.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT:

While K&N's washable filters require a higher initial investment compared to disposable alternatives, they offer long-term cost savings. The animation studio's team demonstrated a payback period of less than three years on the initial investment, with expectations that the filters will remain effective for up to 10 years. This approach not only reduces waste but also leads to significant financial savings over time.

**Passionate about sustainability? Let's talk: [nowaste@knfilters.com](mailto:nowaste@knfilters.com)**

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