

# Case Study Premier Car Wash

## Snapshot



*"Changing our equipment to reduce energy usage just isn't cost effective. The Stem system provides significant energy savings without any operational changes."*

**Gerard Habib** Owner  
Premier Car Wash

Gerard Habib has owned Premier Car Wash since 2004. Premier is a large facility that includes a car wash, gas station & convenience store and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The car wash is a full-service wash with numerous electric motors that drive hydraulic pumps for the water used to wash the cars, and large dryers to push enough airflow to dry them.

The facility serves over two hundred cars every day and the car wash machinery causes significant energy usage spikes.

**Challenge** A service station with a car wash experiences significant usage spikes during the day, resulting in high demand charges. Premier's electricity bill, between \$4,000 – 6,000 per month, is its biggest expense after its mortgage and payroll. To address these high costs, Premier has already undertaken many energy efficiency measures and any additional changes would be very expensive. For example, new car dryers produce more airflow than previous models with only one third the horsepower, but they cost almost \$40,000. The energy savings alone are not enough for owner Gerard Habib to justify replacing his existing equipment.

**Solution** The Stem system appealed to Gerard immediately due to the potential for immediate impact to his bottom line with no operational changes. The Stem system will monitor the usage spikes at Premier and store enough energy during off-peak times to be discharged during peak times. There are many hybrid cars that pass through the car wash, and the Stem system will effectively turn Premier into a "hybrid" operation, switching between battery and grid power as necessary.

**Results** With the Stem system, Premier expects to be able to cut its monthly energy bill up to 18%. This will help the business significantly. Premier's payroll expenses recently went up due to an increase in the minimum wage. Reducing operating expenses through energy savings will enable Premier to maintain its workforce and profitability.



For more information on how a Stem Energy system can help you control your energy costs, please visit [stem.com](http://stem.com) or call **(415) YES-STEM (937-7836)** to speak with us directly.