

The Green Challenge

Elopak takes its green credentials seriously. We are constantly on the look-out for ways to reduce energy consumption, help the environment and save precious resources as part of our Green Challenge programme.



Solar panels at Elopak Speyer

Let us give some examples:

Germany

Elopak Germany is currently developing a climate saver initiative with the local authority in Speyer aimed at creating a CO₂-free city, to save resources and guarantee the most-efficient use of energy. Elopak took part in the first green workshop with Speyer's 10 largest companies.

€600,000 have been invested into renewable energy through solar panels at Elopak Speyer. Between January and May, more than 1,100 solar modules were installed on the roof and now generate approx. 200.000kWh electricity per year, equivalent to the consumption of 70 families.

The solar power system was installed by GS Neue Energien. The company is project managing the system and is responsible for the maintenance of

the solar panels. New office windows have also been installed and as well as two new cooling systems in Speyer production. Cooling starts from 20 degrees outdoor temperature and up to 20 degrees a ventilating system guarantees sufficient cooling and ensures maximum energy-savings. In addition a new heating system has been installed at Speyer's offices and associated facilities. This will deliver energy and CO₂ savings of approximate 430 MW per year (equivalent to 88 tonnes of CO₂ reduction.) Warm water is generated from solar panels for Speyer's facilities.

Central Eastern Europe

Elopak CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) is on track to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 15%. Employee awareness of green issues has been raised and recycling has become part of every staff member's standard activities.

In Austria, the Elopak team has succeeded in reducing the levels of waste paper. Simple techniques such as ensuring paper is printed on both sides and that waste paper is collected separately to ensure the highest achievable degree of recycling have meant that despite an increase in staff numbers, paper usage has not increased over the last year.

In Hungary, the Elopak office moved to a smaller location which meant a reduction of energy and in Serbia a new heating system has been installed.

Across CEE, a green transportation optimization strategy is in place which ensures that only trucks completely full of caps and blanks go to the customer. Furthermore only vehicles with the latest technology and low emission are used. An additional benefit is that low emission trucks are assigned with lower toll fees as well.

The Netherlands

At the Elopak converting plant in Terneuzen a number of different projects have reduced the CO₂ emissions and brought significant cost savings.

In the first half of 2010 a new compressor system has been installed. Energy consumption will be reduced by 20% in comparison with the previous system by making use of rotary vane compressors which are controlled by a powerful compressor management system. This will result in a yearly CO₂-reduction of 125 tons. Moreover, a written agreement on system performance between Elopak and the supplier will motivate the supplier to tune the system to achieve maximum efficiency.

In January of 2010, the cooling system of one of the four printing lines has been replaced. The new system is able to cool the printing line by making use of an energy efficient ventilation system if the outdoor temperature is below 14°C. This results in a CO₂-reduction of 77 tons per year.

The waste heat of the above mentioned systems together with the waste heat of another printing line cooling system can be recovered thanks to changes made to the building this year (e.g. by installing air socks and air channels from the different installations into the plant). Together, these measures reduce the yearly CO₂-emission by 91 tons.



Reducing the amount of leaks in compressed air piping will result in 32 tons of CO₂-reduction per year.



Elopak Terneuzen is also investigating the possibilities to replace the central heating system. Today's systems typically have an efficiency of about 90%, whereas the old system has an efficiency of only 60%. These figures show that a yearly CO₂-reduction of 336 tons is well possible.

Furthermore, Elopak Terneuzen is planning to install an Energy Monitoring System. This system allows energy consumption to be analysed throughout the production plant and enables the correct decisions to be made with regards to maintenance, for example. Moreover, the system is able to provide feedback which can be used to raise awareness of energy consumption within the organization. It is envisaged that installation of this system will result in a 2% CO₂-reduction.

For more information about Elopak's environmental work take contact with Environmental Director Sveinar Kildal at Group Headquarters in Norway; sveinar.kildal@elopak.no