Radiant heater bands cut energy use for plastics processors

As a Wisconsin business, it pays to learn about emerging technologies that can help you save energy. With Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, all the information and resources you need are at your fingertips. Here's how Focus helped two plastic manufacturers in Wisconsin.

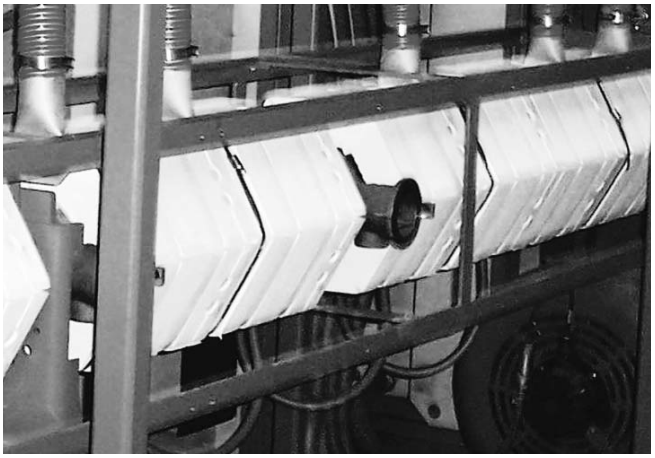
All heater bands are not created equal.
A new radiant heater band design that is easy to install, less labor intensive to maintain, and energy efficient shows promise for the plastics industry. The innovative radiant heater band design addresses traditional barrel heating and cooling inefficiencies. It hastens warm-up times and can make cool-down systems more effective.

PACTIV CORPORATION: SHEET EXTRUSION ENHANCEMENTS

The first of the newly designed radiant heater bands in Wisconsin were installed at Pactiv Corporation (Pactiv) in Chippewa Falls. Pactiv continually seeks process improvement and works with Focus on Energy to identify innovative energy savings opportunities. The thermal control system was an emerging technology Pactiv wanted to try.

"We were skeptical at first that something this simple could have the projected impact. After testing and measuring the results, we hope to install them on the rest of our extruders," said Mike Arrigoni, engineer, Pactiv. "The ease of installation of these heaters is a key benefit for us."

Pactiv cut energy use by 33 percent on a large plastic sheet extrusion machine. With 89,000 kWh per year in energy savings plus a Focus on Energy financial incentive, the project paid for itself in 1.7 years.



Energy use was cut by 33 percent thanks to the radiant heater band installation on a large plastic sheet extrusion machine at Pactiv Corporation.

Pactiv Corporation
Founded: 1999
Profile: Pactiv produces plastic products for the U.S. foodservice and food packaging markets. Its Hefty® brand is one of the nation's most widely recognized brands.
Website: pactiv.com

Xten Industries
Founded: 1940
Profile: Xten is based in Kenosha, Wisconsin and develops plastic parts, assembled components, and subassemblies for small- and medium-sized manufacturers.
Website: xtenindustries.com

For more information,
call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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The power is within you.

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XTEN INDUSTRIES: INJECTION MOLDING ENHANCEMENTS

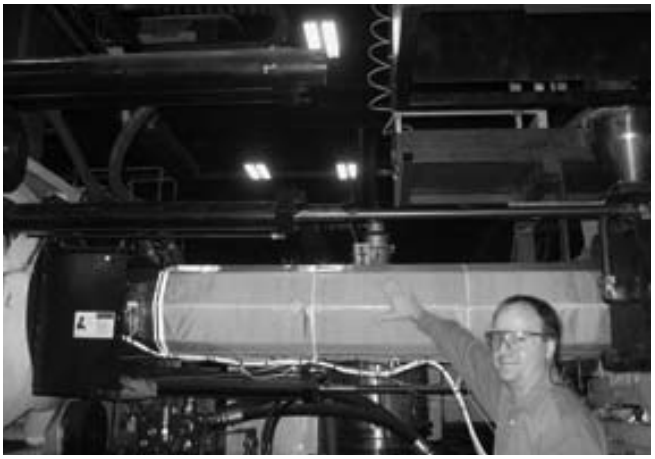
With help from Focus, Xten Industries (Xten) was on a mission to reduce its energy consumption. As such, radiant heater bands were a significant part of the plan. After a 90-day trial, Focus and Xten confirmed the savings matched the supplier's estimates. Xten then went ahead with the project, installing radiant heater bands on more than 20 injection molding machines.

To help fund the project, Xten received a $42,700 Focus incentive. The remainder of the project was financed through Focus' emerging technology shared-savings program. Focus receives 50 percent of the energy savings until the balance is paid off. Xten can purchase the equipment at a declining buyout price at any time.

"For every dollar we save on the heater bands, we keep $0.50 and pay Focus back $0.50," said Mathew Davidson, Xten's president. "That's money directly to our bottom line. It's a direct financing program for manufacturers who can promise to pay it back through the savings they're realizing."

BOTTOM LINE

Newly designed radiant heater bands for plastics equipment reduce energy use, improve temperature control, and are easy to install. Thanks to Focus on Energy, two Wisconsin companies, Pactiv and Xten Industries, are using this emerging technology and saving money and energy.



The installation of radiant heater bands on more than 20 injection molding machines at Xten Industries was made possible thanks to Focus' emerging technology financing solutions.

PARTNER WITH FOCUS AND FIND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES THAT WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

With help from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin businesses are saving millions of dollars annually in energy costs. To learn more call Focus at **800.762.7077**, visit **focusonenergy.com**, or email **emergingtech@focusonenergy.com.**

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Join our online conversation at **focusonenergy.com/socialnetworks** to connect with people who share your interest in saving energy and money at home and work. Also, visit **focusonenergy.com/incentives** for the latest incentives and requirements as Focus offers are subject to change.

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment, and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call **800.762.7077** or visit **focusonenergy.com.**

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All information (e.g., energy savings, costs, testimonials) throughout this document is historical and based on data available at the time it was created.

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