

Driving Sustainability

How Plastipack Ltd utilised
LOCASE funding to propel
growth and environmental
responsibility



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



PLASTIPACK LIMITED

Introduction

Plastipack Ltd, based in St Leonards-on-sea, is a leading manufacturer of innovative energy and resource-saving materials for swimming pools and water storage facilities. Founded in 1998 by Peter Adlington and Edward Campbell-Salmon, Plastipack has grown into a global entity, boasting a production of six million square metres of material annually and partnerships in 48 countries.

Background

With a strong commitment to environmental sustainability woven into the fabric of their operations, Plastipack's journey to enhance its sustainable manufacturing practices led them to seek out the LoCASE (Low Carbon Across the South East) funding. This initiative, aligned with their mission and values, aimed to reduce their environmental footprint while continuing their path of innovation and growth.

Objectives and why LoCASE

Plastipack's application to LoCASE was driven by the desire to undertake two pivotal sustainability projects:

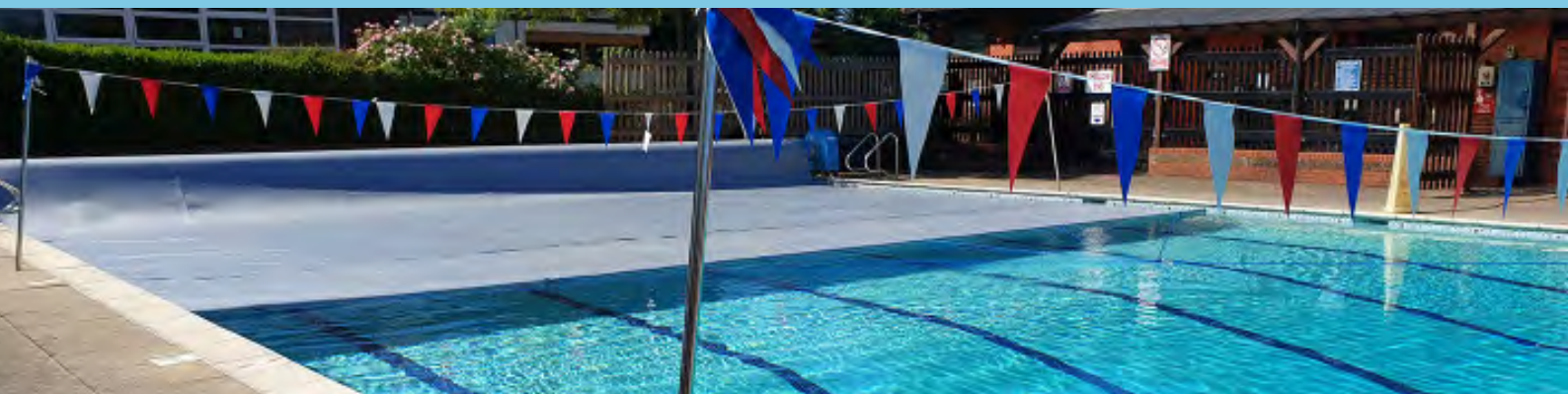
- Installation of Thermal Jackets: Aimed at stabilising energy fluctuations and reducing heat-up times for dyes
- Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) on Main Products: Conducted to evaluate the environmental impact of their flagship products and identify areas for further energy conservation

Tim Fielder, Commercial Director for Plastipack, said:

We applied for two very specific projects through LOCASE. The main one was to install thermal jackets on our dyes, with the aim of stabilising energy fluctuation and reducing heat-up times."

Strategy and implementation

The process began with Plastipack identifying key areas within their manufacturing process where sustainability improvements could yield significant benefits. The thermal jacket installation project was launched with the goal of achieving substantial energy savings by reducing the heat loss during production. Concurrently, Plastipack embarked on a life-cycle assessment of their main products, in partnership with Valpak, to scientifically evaluate and substantiate their products' positive environmental impact.



Results

The implementation of thermal jackets led to a remarkable 14.7% saving in energy consumption, a significant achievement in light of rising energy costs. Moreover, the life-cycle assessment yielded unexpected yet highly encouraging results, demonstrating that Plastipack's products save more energy than they consume during manufacture. This groundbreaking finding not only validated their sustainable manufacturing practices but also positioned Plastipack as a leader in environmental stewardship within their industry.

“It's great, we have seen a 14.7% saving in energy, just from the installation of the jackets which, at a time of high-energy consumption is a great saving for us, so we are grateful that the LoCASE funding could help us with this”,

Tim reported.

Impact and future directions

Buoyed by the success of these projects and the support from LoCASE funding, Plastipack is now poised to extend the life-cycle assessment to its entire premium line of materials. This ambitious rollout aims to further showcase the carbon footprint reduction achievable through the use of Plastipack's products, reinforcing their commitment to sustainability and their role in promoting environmental responsibility across the market.

“Since then, with the confidence that the LoCASE funding has given us, we have been able to move on from the initial testing of two products, to now planning out life-cycle assessments for our entire premium line of materials.”

Conclusion

Plastipack Ltd's case study exemplifies the transformative power of targeted sustainability initiatives in manufacturing. Through strategic investment in energy-saving technologies and comprehensive environmental impact assessments, Plastipack has not only enhanced its operational efficiency but has also reinforced its commitment to sustainable development. The LoCASE funding has been instrumental in enabling these advancements, proving that environmental responsibility and business growth can go hand in hand.

Tim Fielder concluded by saying:

“Really, the bottom line for us is that the LoCASE funding for both of these projects (the thermal jackets & LCA) has made us become more efficient and helped us promote to our customers a clear case of where we want to take the company in the future.”

Plastipack Ltd

Location: St Leonards-on-sea, UK

Founded: 1998

Founders: Peter Adlington and Edward Campbell-Salmon

Mission: To produce energy and resource-saving materials for swimming pools and water storage, with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability

Vision for the Future: To lead the industry in sustainable manufacturing practices and significantly reduce the carbon footprint of their products and operations worldwide