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From design to manufacturing: Instruments for reducing the energy consumption and carbon emissions of the polymer industry and its supply chain

ENER-PLAST

The European polymer industry is one of the most important sectors in the EU, however, the sector is mainly dominated by SMEs who are coming under increasing pressure from lower wage economies as well as increases in EU enforced legislation, and a rise in the price of energy and materials. The volatility of oil prices, the buoyant global demand for energy products and the rapid economic growth of China and India has resulted in testing business conditions for the industry with optimism and confidence at an all time low. ENER-Plast will provide the European polymer industry and its supply chain industries with the knowledge, justification, information resources and tools needed to reduce their carbon footprint and environmental impact. The project presents a systematic approach to energy management and climate change and cuts through the many complexities to help companies understand and manage their energy consumption.



Results

- A 'European Energy & Environmental Legislation Guide for the European Polymer Industry'
- A suite of tools to lead a company through designing a product, material, mould and equipment selection, manufacturing, assembly and distribution whilst assessing the energy consumption at each stage
- A 'Carbon Impact Calculator'
- A guide to 'Energy Efficiency and the Mould and Tool Industry'
- An interactive, web-based 'Guide to Energy Efficient Design and Sustainable Manufacturing with Polymers'

Lesson learned

- The legislation survey conducted for the 'European Energy & Environmental Legislation Guide for the European Polymer Industry' illustrated that the industry must comply with a substantial amount of legislation, both at European and national levels. In some cases, there is also regional legislation to comply with.
- Only 58% of respondents to the 'Survey of Attitudes to Legislation' were aware of existing legislation covering energy in their country. Legislation covering CO2 gets more publicity, but when it comes to Government policies on wider energy issues, industry is not always aware of these.

- There is a need for an industry specific ‘Carbon Impact Calculator’ - since the launch of ENER-Plast there has been a number of enquiries from companies wanting to know how to calculate their carbon emissions and where to go for further information.

Partners and coordinator

Smithers Rapra Technology Ltd [1]	United Kingdom
CRIF-Wallonie [2]	Belgium
SIRRIS [3]	Belgium
Univerzita Tomase Bati ve Zline [4]	Czech Republic
Centre d'Animation Régional en Matériaux Avancés [5]	France
Pôle Européen de Plasturgie [6]	France
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. [7]	Germany
Centro Tecnológico da Indústria de Moldes, Ferramentas Especiais e Plásticos [8]	Portugal
Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade [9]	Portugal
Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre [10]	Slovenia
Asociacion de Investigacion de Materiales Plasticos [11]	Spain
The British Plastics Federation [12]	United Kingdom

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Budget

Overall budget: 1.264.700,00 € (EU contribution: 50,00 %)

Key documents

- [Energy Efficiency and the Mould and Tool Industry](#) [13]
PDF 2.01 MB 
- [Environmental Legislation Guide](#) [14]
PDF 7.14 MB 
- [Purchasing Moulds&Tools Whats Important](#) [15]
PDF 2.41 MB 

In brief

Sector: Industry

Duration: 01/11/2007 to 31/10/2010

Contract number: EISAV/EIE/07/052/2007

Website: <http://www.enerplast.eu>

Tags:

energy consumption

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