

NoWatt



NoWatt Case Study

The Customer: Ultragraph Ltd.

Founded 30 years ago, Ultragraph is a high-quality commercial printing company based in Lancashire. Employing 25 people and with an annual turnover of £3 million, Ultragraph provides a wide variety of print services to its customers.

The Challenge

Efficiency is the name of the game in the printing world and no one understands this more than Nick Jones, Managing Director of Ultragraph, Ltd. However, when Jones undertook a major modernisation project, he was faced with a challenge: to upgrade Ultragraph's power infrastructure to handle the increased energy demands of the new equipment – and at significant cost. Jones wanted to verify the manufacturer's power claims for the new printer, but he didn't have the necessary information to do so.

Jones was also considering the purchase of a dryer – equipment at the end of a printing press which speed-dries ink. While increasing print output, dryers are known to be extremely power hungry. Jones wanted to know how much power the dryer would consume and compare this against the benefits of increased productivity. Again he was faced with making a critical business decision with very limited information. Ultragraph turned to NoWatt for help.

The NoWatt Solution

Initially curious about the NoWatt solution, Jones quickly recognized it could provide the itemized energy consumption information he needed to make his investment decisions. He jumped in with both feet.

"The installation was very painless and professionally done," explains Jones. "The NoWatt installation engineer brought along an electrician and set the system up without any disruption to Ultragraph's operations. It was all very simple."

By isolating individual appliances on the power network, NoWatt was able to identify how much energy each appliance was consuming and to give Ultragraph accurate costings based on unit charges.

"NoWatt tells you what you're spending your money on – leaving you to decide whether to do something about it or not."

Nick Jones
Managing Director
Ultragraph Ltd.



The Results

With NoWatt installed, Jones immediately set about monitoring the power consumption of his current printing press and compared this against the manufacturer's recommendations. He then applied these calculations to the new printing press. For the first time, Jones had solid consumption information on which to base his decision.

The outcome? Ultragraph was able to install the new printer without upgrading its power supply. NoWatt's information saved Ultragraph over £30,000 plus the disruption of an unnecessary infrastructure upgrade.

And what about the question of installing a dryer? Jones reviewed the NoWatt information and saw that one dryer was costing him £187 to run in a typical month (£2,224 a year) and decided that the increased consumption costs didn't justify the higher print output. In fact, by only using the dryer on jobs that needed a quick turnaround, Jones saved virtually all the energy an additional dryer would have cost – and still met his customers' needs.

Before replacing equipment, Jones now uses NoWatt to check that new kit is more efficient than his current infrastructure. NoWatt gives him the information he needs to make solid return on investment decisions.

The Benefits

The itemized energy consumption information has given Ultragraph greater flexibility with cost management and prompted changes in behaviour to save energy. "NoWatt has definitely met our expectations," concludes Jones. "NoWatt tells you what you're spending your money on – leaving you to decide whether to do something about it or not." Crucially, NoWatt has also made it easy for Ultragraph to refine and improve energy efficiency as part of its ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standards.

NoWatt also provided Ultragraph with unexpected benefits. "It opened our eyes to wastage," admits Jones. "It was quite astounding to see how much power the building was using when no one was there."

NoWatt has already paid for itself at Ultragraph. Its itemised energy consumption information helps Ultragraph to make informed investment decisions, drive efficiencies and stay ahead of the competition. Crucially, This leaves Ultragraph to do what it does best: focus on its customers.

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BENEFITS

Helps refine and improve energy efficiency as part of ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standards

ROI information – check efficiency of equipment before replacing old kit

Isolate appliances for accurate costings

Information drives a change in behaviour

