

**Intelligent Energy**  **Europe**



**euplastvoltage**

**European Plastics**  
**Converting Industry Voluntary Long-Term**  
**Agreement on Energy Efficiency**

# European Plastics Converting Industry Voluntary Long-Term Agreement on Energy Efficiency

**EUPLASTVOLTAGE will have a direct impact on the sector's energy efficiency and thus will contribute to the EU objective of 20% energy savings by 2020.**



## Key Objectives

The objective of this project is to prepare and launch a voluntary long-term agreement on energy efficiency for the European plastics converting industry.

This project will bring together experience and best practice at national and industry levels, with a view to stimulating a new long-term agreement at European level, resulting in a firm commitment by the sector to achieve long term energy efficiency targets on the European level.

Eleven partners – mostly national plastics converters associations - from eight European countries will directly participate in this project and will act as ambassadors in the market toward increased energy efficiency, in their regions.

### Expected Deliverable

● This action will result in the involvement of the whole European plastics converting industry in a voluntary agreement on energy efficiency. This project will have a direct impact on the sector's energy efficiency and thus will contribute to the EU objective of 20% energy savings by 2020.

### Results indicators

- A concrete, finalised and signed voluntary agreement on energy efficiency in the European plastics converting industry with clear targets, a time schedule, an implementation plan and monitoring procedures.
- A number of spin-off agreements created in other manufacturing industries.
- The action will serve as a precursor for the whole of European industry and particularly for the SME sector.

## Background

The objective of this project is to prepare a Voluntary Agreement for the European plastics converting industry. This action will bring together experience and best practices at national and industry levels, with the aim to create a long-term agreement at the European level.

The plastics converting industry is composed of 50,000 SMEs and 1.6 million employees spread across the 27 Member States. The plastics industry is willing to actively participate in the Climate Action of the European Union through its strong associative network in Europe. Moreover, there is strong pressure to strengthen competitiveness and sustainability of the European plastics converting by the sector itself.

The project will base part of its activities on previous or ongoing "Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)" projects and build upon current industry best practice.



This action supports the overall objective of the EU and IEE programmes to foster energy efficiency. On a National basis too, many Countries are implementing systems – such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment – to encourage companies to improve processing techniques, increase their energy efficiency and reduce their burden on the environment. With energy prices rising, it is imperative that the SMEs continue to develop and embrace energy efficiency, in all its forms.

The outcome of this project will be a voluntary long-term agreement on energy efficiency for the plastics converting industry in Europe. Therefore, the direct long-term effect of this project will be cost effective energy savings for the plastics converting industry, in line with the 20% target.

## Energy as a central theme

Energy efficiency and energy management have never been more important themes than now. With energy prices continuing to rise, energy and environmental management are important issues that are increasingly high on the agenda for many leading European businesses.

Although there is an increasing pressure on businesses in all sectors to improve their environmental performance, many SMEs still have a low awareness of obligations with regards to reducing their carbon and environmental impacts footprint.

According to the European '2008 Environment Policy Review – Annex 1' "energy use (including transport) accounts for 80% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the EU-15." Following agreement at the European Council in 2007, the EU is committed to

- achieving at least a 20% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990, or 30% if other developed nations agree to take similar action.
- An increase in the use of renewable energy, to 20% of all energy consumed.
- A 20% increase in energy efficiency
- An increase in the use of biofuels, to 10% of all fuel used in transport



## Anticipated Results & Conclusions

Energy cost is a central theme for plastics processors across Europe. The energy saving potential of plastic products are well known, however processors are under increasing pressure to reduce their energy consumption during manufacture.

● **Market transformation** This action will indirectly introduce and promote the concept of energy services in industry and will tackle untapped energy savings potentials in the plastics converting industry

● **Changing behaviour** This voluntary long-term agreement will lead to exchanges of know-how and experience between energy managers. For instance, the Dutch energy managers, who have significant experience of Voluntary Agreements, will exchange their experience with energy managers from other countries.

● **Training** as mentioned above this project will create conditions to have further training on energy efficiency practices not only in the plastics industry but potentially in other industry by a spin-off effect

● **Access capital** The reduction of energy consumption within the targeted European industry will lead to improved financial performance. As a result, access to capital will be increased, leading to further investment in energy efficiency.

Voluntary Agreements are not new within the polymer industry; The PVC supply-chain has set a precedent within the plastics industry, with a voluntary agreement to increase recycling rates and improve manufacturing and processing efficiency. The Vinyl 2010 Voluntary Commitment, so too the British Plastics Federation's (BPF) Climate Change Agreement (CCA) for plastics processors, have provided an opportunity for plastics processors to focus on improving manufacturing efficiency, whilst reducing energy-related costs, such as taxes.

Voluntary Agreements, such as Vinyl 2010 and what the EUPLASTVOLTAGE project would like to take one step further, is a way of raising awareness of energy efficiency, allowing industry to be pro-active in addressing perceived problems – such as recycling or high energy use.

The EUPLASTVOLTAGE agreement will see a significant reduction in energy by polymer processors, lowering the embodied energy of products and increasing the long-term sustainability of the industry's products and services.



# Intelligent Energy Europe

## Project Consortium

### Trade Associations

Associação Portuguesa de Indústria de Plásticos, **Portugal** 

[www.apip.pt](http://www.apip.pt)

Association of Hungarian Plastics Industry, **Hungary** 

[www.huplast.hu](http://www.huplast.hu)

Asociación Española de Industriales de Plásticos, **Spain** 

[www.anaip.es](http://www.anaip.es)

British Plastics Federation, **United Kingdom** 

[www.bpf.co.uk](http://www.bpf.co.uk)

European Plastics Converters, **Belgium** (coordinator) 

[www.eupc.org](http://www.eupc.org)

Federatie Nederlandse Rubber en Kunststofindustrie, **The Netherlands** 

[www.nrk.nl](http://www.nrk.nl)

Fédération de la Plasturgie, **France** 

[www.laplasturgie.fr](http://www.laplasturgie.fr)

IK Industrievereinigung Kinststoffverpackungen e.V., **Germany** 

[www.kunststoffverpackungen.de](http://www.kunststoffverpackungen.de)

Vereniging van producenten van Kunststof en rubberartikelen, **Belgium** 

[www.federplast.be](http://www.federplast.be)

### Research Organisations

SenterNovem, **The Netherlands** 

[www.senternovem.nl](http://www.senternovem.nl)

Fraunhofer – Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V., **Germany** 

[www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de)

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Please visit the EUPLASTVOLTAGE website  
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<http://euplastvoltage.eu/en/>