

Press

SAVING IS ALWAYS AN EXCELLENT IDEA

FederlegnoArredo presents a project to improve energy efficiency among companies operating in the wooden furnishing sector.

FederlegnoArredo, The Italian Federation representing the wood, cork, furniture and furnishing sectors, has underscored its interest in environmental issues and sustainability by launching a programme of interventions for member companies.

The energy efficiency project was founded in 2012 in the wake of an important energy mapping project effected in the Pordenone area in north-east Italy, which revealed some important information regarding the energy use of companies in the wood and furniture sector.

The figures gleaned have led to the creation of a process helping businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the implementation of a proposal totally offsetting the investments required, and makes it possible to improve competitiveness without having to deal with the credit crunch that is slowing investments in the industrial sector today.

Through a partnership with a Heat&Power s.r.l., the first pilot project was launched in the early months of 2013, with a company which is a member of FederlegnoArredo and exhibitor at the Salone del Mobile 2013: Porro s.p.a.

The intervention, comprising of the installation of an inverter on one of the electric motors dedicated to sucking up the shavings produced during the production process, bases its innovative approach on the financial model.

For the work will be completely paid by the savings it will generate; for the first three years alone, these will amount to about 90,000 kWh at an estimated energy cost of €0.17 per kWh, enabling the company to cut its production costs by about €15,000 and reduce atmospheric emissions by 18 TOE (tonne of oil equivalent). All at “zero cost” and with evident, profitable possibilities of replication. This

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operation will make it possible to standardise this innovative investment model on a technical and financial level, so that it can be replicated across a wide number of companies, and through the economies of scale the Federation is able to create, lower the costs for small businesses wishing to invest in efficiency.

“This project”, comments **Mauro Minotti**, financial director of Porro S.p.A., “is very important for us, as it enables us to finance an improvement in our company processes using an innovative procedure. For Porro, the constant striving for combining efficiency and sustainability is an aspect of fundamental importance. We expect this model to be replicable in our and other companies to render the sector better equipped to tackle international competition.”

“The process of energy efficiency is one that we will continue to stress”, affirms **Roberto Snaidero**, president of FederlegnoArredo. “For it is estimated that investments in energy efficiency by companies are among those offering the quickest returns, and it is thus worth concentrating on them. With this project, we hope to make possible medium to small-sized interventions helping SMEs to consider energy not as a simple cost but as an aspect it is possible to change with interesting economic returns”.

Milan, 9th April 2013