

Sustainability?

How We Can Help.



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As manufacturing became more intensely competitive, Conair led the industry, developing equipment that helps plastics processors reduce energy consumption, make better use of raw materials, reclaim scrap and improve process yield.

Today, these initiatives take on new significance as “**sustainability**” becomes the watchword for consumers and manufacturers alike. Conair is seizing every opportunity to help customers use and/or recapture resources more efficiently. At the same time, this sustainability model extends internally to include the way the company operates and the way equipment is manufactured. Thus Conair seeks to **minimize the environmental impact** of our activities and those of our customers while also sustaining the long-term economic viability of these enterprises.

A perfect example of this **commitment to economic and ecological sustainability** is found in the Conair EnergySmart™ PET drying system. The original two-stage system actually recycles heat used in the drying process, achieving the lowest energy consumption (kW/kg) rating in the industry. The more versatile single-stage system has the ability to automatically fine-tune the air flow, temperature and dew point to maintain a stable temperature with minimal energy input regardless of throughput changes or variations in material temperature or ambient conditions. Less energy is used in processing each kilogram of PET, less scrap is produced and the processor operates more profitably. That’s how Conair makes a process sustainable.

Another example is seen in a new line of process chillers that were the first in the plastics industry to use ozone-friendly R-410A and R-134A refrigerants. At the same time, these chillers were designed to minimize the use of raw materials and the number of internal components. Like all of the more energy-intensive Conair equipment, the new chillers are being supplied with Smart Controls™ that automatically adjust operating parameters to match energy use to the demands of the process. **It’s good for the environment and good for your bottom line.**

The Conair sustainability commitment is visible in virtually every product we make:

- **Material Blenders and Feeders** that prevent waste by eliminating material leaks and improving dispensing accuracy – in some cases 30% more accurate than the nearest competitor.
- **Dryers** that automatically adjust air flow and temperature to match process demand, not only to save energy, but also to ensure materials are properly conditioned (less scrap).
- **Energy-Efficient Granulators** for recycling off-spec plastic parts, sheet, film and other scrap into a form that can be reintroduced into the process – true cradle-to-cradle materials usage.
- **Plastics Fines and Dust Collectors** that improve the quality of reclaimed material and remove these particulates from the work environment.
- **Central Drying and Materials Conveying Systems** eliminate the need for multiple, energy hungry pumps, blowers, piping and other equipment used to supply materials to the process equipment.
- **Chillers and Temperature Control Equipment** uses ozone-friendly R-410A and R-134A refrigerants and employs variable frequency pump drives to cut electrical consumption.
- **Extrusion Cooling Tanks** use regenerative-style vacuum pumps and variable frequency drive systems to reduce energy consumption by 50% or more without compromising operational flexibility or requiring construction of new tooling.

More than just equipment. Manufacturing supports sustainability too!

In the Conair plant in Franklin, PA, energy scrubbers filter electric power entering the plant, removing noise and flattening peaks and valleys for increased efficiency and low costs. Cardboard packaging from incoming materials no longer is disposed of in a landfill. Instead, it is baled and sold to recyclers. Again, there are both ecological and economical benefits.

At the Conair headquarters building in Cranberry Township, PA, recycling teams have been charged with taking immediate steps to reduce environmental impact. This includes paper recycling bins at each workstation and at key points throughout each facility, food packaging and PET-bottle collection stations and lights out where practical or when not in use. The offices and workspaces are modular and portable, eliminating the need for scrap and new materials when reconfiguring space. The building itself is energy efficient, requiring 60% less energy to operate than the company’s former location.

Conair equipment is sold globally and produced in key regional markets. Because the equipment does not need to be shipped as far to reach customers, local manufacture also effectively reduces each product’s carbon footprint. At the same time, it delivers an economic benefit – allowing shipping and labor cost savings to be passed along to customers – and ensures the high level of service that comes with local manufacturing.

Ensuring worker safety and outstanding performance throughout the product lifecycle.

That life cycle is extended through a buy-back program that promotes rebuilding and resale. Since the equipment has already been produced, the carbon footprint for a rebuilt machine is considerably smaller than it would be for new equipment. Equipment can actually be recycled and placed back in service for added years of service. Conair engineers are also looking at product end-of-life factors and developing ways in which the materials can be recycled for true cradle-to-cradle design.

Almost without exception, the things that are good for the environment – cutting energy consumption, making better use of raw materials, limiting waste and pollution, extending the product lifecycle – are also good for your business.

Conair is committed to sustainable manufacturing and we are working every day toward reducing our impact on the environment. A huge part of that initiative involves helping the people who use our equipment do the same thing. Let’s work together to achieve a greener, more profitable future.