



The Higgs Group



The new lighting in the shop

SME BUSINESS SECTOR:

The Higgs Group is a print and publishing company in Henley on Thames.

PROJECT COST:

£11,132

GRANT:

£ 2,542

“The new lights are much brighter, improve the look immensely and are cheaper to run.”
BEN ELLIOTT
The Higgs Group

The Project

Higgs has been the leading printing and publishing company in Henley on Thames for over 100 years. They provide quality print and publishing services to businesses in and around the local area.

Staff at the Higgs Group had several issues with their lighting – they had several maintenance issues with them regularly and didn't like the way they looked in the shop and advertising area. Very few of the lights that were originally installed in the building were LEDs, therefore, by changing them over Higgs would be able to save thousands of pounds as well improving the atmosphere in their offices and shop spaces. The Higgs Group office has top floor flat that extends much of your building, however, the energy audit spotted that there was no insulation in the accessible loft space above some of the offices. By increasing insulation heat losses will be minimised in winter and heat gains will be reduced in summer.

continued overleaf...

Where to start?

The energy audit recommended a host of measures that Higgs could install to reduce their energy bills, make their workspace look a bit nicer and reduce their carbon emissions. Some were zero or very low cost. OxFutures helped the organisation make decisions on what to prioritise and here are some of the measures Higgs decided to go ahead with.

Lighting

LED lights are more energy-efficient and exist for nearly every fitting. They can reduce electricity use by up to 90% compared to other light fixtures. Additionally, LEDs last up to 35,000 hours before they need to be replaced (fluorescent lights last 15,000 hours) resulting in reduced maintenance costs. The lights have been completed for a few months now and the new light installations are much brighter, improve the look of the shop/advertising space immensely and are cheaper to run. The lights have currently been running maintenance-free and if this continues and brings down the electricity bill then Higgs Group will have been able to save a significant amount of money.

Insulation

Up to 25% of the building's heat was being lost through the roof. Higgs Group installed loft insulation to a recommended level of 300mm to maximise heat retention in the building. The insulation is now almost complete, it has taken a bit of time due to the condition the lofts were in before work starting. The time taken spent laying the insulation should have great benefits such as: minimising heat losses in winter, reducing heat gains in summer and improving comfort levels for the users. The heating bill should see a welcome reduction as well!

Other recommendations

There were a range of other recommendations made for Higgs, a number at low or zero cost such as: using a timer to turn off the hot water, use half-hourly data to monitor out of hours energy use, add draught-proofing to shop doors and introducing an employee engagement energy-saving programme (this was estimated to save the Higgs Group a minimum of £256 a year). By implementing these small measures, the Higgs Group will be able to add to the savings they will make from the loft insulation and LED lighting.



Left: The previous lighting; Right: The new lighting

Give the OxFutures team a call today on **01865 246009**, or visit www.oxfutures.org to see how you can save money and energy with a free energy audit and grant funding.