

IG production costs spotlight **GLASTON**'s energy-saving solutions



A factor hardly helped by the current crisis, energy remains the main raw material in Insulating Glass (IG) production. Here rising bills have seen IG producers scouting for novel ways to reduce costs in order to remain competitive - a challenge which, as today's team at GLASTON notes, can certainly be achieved with the correct, modern technology.

The main driver in today's IG production is that of needing to reduce total cost of ownership (TCO). To achieve this, every step of the IG production process necessitates smart optimization to best mitigate wasted improvement opportunities showing up in monthly energy bills. Of these, the most important follow here:

GLASS WASHING AND DRYING

One of the most energy-intensive steps in IG production is that of glass washing and drying. Here the drying zone of Glaston's latest and most advanced washing and drying machine will be automatically powered off as soon as the glass plate has been dried and has left this section. If there is no glass to be washed or dried then the ventilation

flaps of the blower will be closed. This results in a reduction of up to 25 percent in washing machine energy consumption.

CONVEYOR SYSTEMS

Roller-driven conveyor systems are indeed more energy efficient than air-cushion technology. However, if we include the high risk of glass scratching during the process - especially with Low-E coated glass - then the costs of roller-driven conveyors will rise owing to frequent glass quality issues. Here Glaston's modern air-cushion conveyor technology will not compromise glass quality - thereby avoiding remakes or reputational risks.

COMPONENTS

In general, all component motors and drives

should be efficient and state-of-the-art. Moreover, by using shared drives in modern IG lines, you can ensure that the only conveyor units running are those carrying glass at any specific moment. All others will be motionless. This reduces electrical power consumption significantly.

TOP-LEVEL EFFICIENCY WITH TPS® TECHNOLOGY

When improving energy efficiency at a facility, a more radical technology update might be required. The most advantageous solution is the Thermo Plastic Spacer (TPS®) system. As the inventor, Glaston launched this technology in 1995. As such, the company now has an extensive, long-term experience with this system within the ar-

chitectural glass industry. With TPS®, IG manufacturers only need a single machine to produce the IG units - not several components. This solution eliminates the need for other production machines, including those for bending, sawing, connecting, filling and butyl coating. Together, these systems need more electrical power than just one TPS® Applicator.



GLASTON CORPORATION

glaston
seeing it through

Lönrotinkatu 11
FI-00120
Helsinki
FINLAND
Tel. +358-10-500-500
E-mail: info@glaston.net
www.glaston.net