



Graphic Packaging

Kalamazoo, MI

Graphic Packaging International (GPI) is one of the largest manufacturers of paper-based packaging in the world. As a vertically integrated manufacturer, their eight mills across North America produce coated recycled paperboard, unbleached kraft paperboard, and solid bleached sulfate paperboard.

The Challenge: GPI's Kalamazoo board mill facility needed improvements to two of its major paper machines. Among GPI's goals is responsible use of water and energy – including reducing overall energy use 15% by 2025. Efficiency upgrades at GPI's Kalamazoo and Battle Creek locations are major steps forward in reaching that goal.

The Solution: GPI's K1 paper machine received a state-of-the-art upgrade to its press and vacuum system, improving efficiency, speed and uptime. Their K3 paper machine received high-pressure dryer upgrades that increased speed and reduced energy use.

GPI's Battle Creek paper mill also made improvements, boosting speed 3% and improving productivity and efficiency. New technology was implemented across both systems that enables greater control and uptime.

The Result: GPI saved 9,189,677 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and received an incentive totaling more than \$1.7 million.

Graphic Packaging's investment in the project was approximately \$600 million, and created an estimated \$2 billion economic impact in the region during construction. Construction at the site began in early 2020 and brought 1,000 project-related jobs to Kalamazoo during the two-year construction phase.

Project Details

- **Upgrades:**
 - Lighting
 - Steam trap upgrade
 - Compressed air repair
- **Overall Incentive:** \$1,740,072
- **Annual Electric Savings:** 9,189,677 kWh
- **Annual Natural Gas Savings:** 142,776 Mcf
- **Estimated Annual Energy Cost Savings:** \$1,383,293

GPI Vice President, Scott LeBeau discussed energy efficiency:

“At GPI, we seek to invest in energy efficiency projects that support our long-term sustainability and business goals. Consumers Energy brought that opportunity to us, and the rebates we captured helped us get to value more quickly.”

Energy Savings in Action:

Graphic Packaging’s contribution to energy efficiency excellence made them eligible for the annual Consumers Energy Project of the Year competition. The business’ ingenuity, innovation and dedication to creating an energy efficient environment that lowered energy costs and saved thousands of dollars led them to first place in the Industrial category, statewide recognition and a \$15,000 award.



We’re here to help

The biggest challenge in reducing energy use in your business is knowing where to start. Consumers Energy is here to help.

The Business Energy Efficiency Programs team will guide you every step of the way to provide a simplified, hassle-free process.

See how energy efficiency can save you thousands of dollars:

Visit [ConsumersEnergy.com/industrialcs](https://www.consumersenergy.com/industrialcs) and download the application or call **888-674-2770** to learn more.