



Pietersen Fine Furniture



SME BUSINESS SECTOR:

Pietersen Fine Furniture specialise in the manufacturing and installation of bespoke furniture and fitted interiors.

PROJECT COST:

£ 9,150

GRANT:

£ 2,288

“It’s important for everyone to play a part in protecting the environment, to look at ways to use less fossil fuels and to recycle where possible, whether at home or at work.”

JEREMY PIETERSEN
Pietersen Fine Furniture

The Project

Pietersen Fine Furniture Ltd specializes in the manufacture and installation of bespoke furniture and fitted interiors. For over 20 years they have been producing traditional and contemporary cabinetry and specialist interior joinery. In 2018 they moved into a 1960s industrial unit.

Staff at Pietersen Fine Furniture wanted to make their work and process as environmentally friendly as possible. They realised that they could reuse/recycle the waste that was created from the manufacturing of the furniture to generate heat for the workshop. This would be a win-win situation for the organisation as they would save money that otherwise would have been spent disposing of the wood waste. Instead, they can turn the waste into heat reducing their energy costs.

Where to start?

The energy audit recommended a host of measures that Pietersen Fine Furniture could install to reduce their energy bills, make their workspace more comfortable 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 Pietersen Fine Furniture decided to go ahead with.

Windows

One of the first bits of work decided on was to create some new frames for the windows to be able to install efficient double glazing on the building. By installing this double glazing the amount of heat loss will be dramatically reduced.

Biomass Heating System

It was determined that if the organisation had a more effective biomass heat system, specifically one that would burn MDF as well as 'unprocessed' woods then this would increase the amount of heat in the workspace. Biomass heat systems operate on the principle of radiant heat, which warms an area faster and more efficiently than warm air being blown through a home's vent system. Therefore, you can not only benefit from a reduction in wood waste disposal or landfill costs but also eliminate your heating bill.

Talbott's installed a biomass heating boiler which could burn MDF, 'unprocessed' woods and a range of alternative biomass fuels. The installation of this boiler offers a technically simple and cost-effective means to heat buildings, whilst able to save carbon emissions. Talbott's are an organisation based in the Midlands and offer a comprehensive range of biomass & wood waste to energy solutions.

Other recommendations

There were a range of other recommendations made for Pietersen Fine Furniture, a number at low or zero cost such as: making sure appliances were switched off when not in use, ensuring accurate energy billing from their provider and adding door closers (this was estimated to save Pietersen Fine Furniture hundreds of pounds a year). At the other end of the spectrum, one of the more expensive, work-intensive measures would have been to consider adding solar PV panels, something which they still could do and save thousands of pounds annually.

Future aims

Pietersen Fine Furniture is always looking at ways to make their business operate more efficiently with regards to waste disposal, recycling, heat, light and other energy-saving measures. With the energy audit they received they will have the knowledge to incrementally implement more efficiency measures as and when they are able.

Give the OxFutures team a call today on **01865 246099**, or visit www.oxfutures.org to see how you can save money and energy with a free energy audit and grant funding.