PreciousLittleOne

Warm welcome for parents

'The ability to take out a loan from the Carbon Trust helped us to free up capital to invest back into the business.'

Ian Lloyd, Director, PreciousLittleOne

Nursery retailer PreciousLittleOne was a little company with a big challenge. It needed an efficient heating system that would pay its way in the long term, without adding to its immediate financial burden. An Energy Efficiency Loan from the Carbon Trust proved the perfect solution, helping to deliver significant cost and carbon savings.

The business case

The company, which has 14 employees, took over premises stretching to 30,000 sq ft – chiefly to house bulky merchandise, such as prams, for internet and retail sales. Having made such a large capital outlay, it was keen to find a cost-effective way to heat the building.

The existing heating was a gas-fired warm air system which used ducting to carry heat. It was 25 years old and in bad repair. Moreover, the company was aware that the system had never delivered adequate heating for the previous occupants.

A key requirement was the flexibility to concentrate heating on the public part of the building. PreciousLittleOne needed to provide a welcoming environment for customers in its showroom, without having to heat the warehouse area which was generally unoccupied.

The loan of £10,000 from the Carbon Trust enabled the company to install an energy efficient replacement system without adding significantly to its set-up costs. Annual savings are estimated at over £5,000.

The technology

Radiant heating is an effective and energy efficient method of heating large spaces.

Radiant systems heat people and objects directly, rather than heating the air around them. That makes them particularly useful in warehouses and big retail outlets, with high ventilation loss and large doors that open frequently.

The type of radiant system installed at PreciousLittleOne's premises is a radiant tube heater. It consists of a steel tube with a gas burner at one end and a flue gas fan at the other, surmounted by a metal reflector. As gas is burned, the temperature of the tube increases (up to 500°C) and it radiates heat.

The heating system consists of four units, suspended high in the eaves of the company's building. The heat radiation is directed downwards to heat the occupants – in a similar way to light from a fluorescent tube.

Savings at a glance

- Energy Efficiency Loan: £10,000
- Projected annual cost savings: Over £5,000
- Payback period: Two years
- Estimated annual carbon savings (CO_2): 26.64 tonnes

Green thinking?

If your building is subject to high ventilation rates, installing a radiant heating system approved by the Energy Technology List (ETL) could help reduce your heating costs by up to 20% compared with conventional air heating systems.

And, by buying ETL-listed products, you can claim tax relief against your capital investment. To find out more on eligible radiant heating schemes, see **Radiant Heating: A guide to equipment eligible for Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA766)**