



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 to responsibly use water and energy at company facilities – including reducing overall energy use 15% by 2025. Energy 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, increasing speed and reducing downtime. The company's K3 paper machine received high-pressure dryer upgrades that increased speed and reduced energy use.

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

The Result: The upgrades enabled GPI to save a combined 9,189,677 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and receive an incentive totaling more than \$1.7 million.

Graphic Packaging's anticipated investment in the project is \$600 million, which company executives say should create a \$2 billion economic impact on the region while construction is ongoing. Construction at the site began in early 2020 and is expected to bring 1,000 project-related jobs to Kalamazoo during the two-year construction phase.

Once the project is complete, the manufacturer plans to add between 25 and 50 full-time positions to its existing local workforce. The Atlanta-based company currently has 625 employees based at its Kalamazoo mill.

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 to apply 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 primed them to win first place in the Industrial category, which included statewide recognition and a \$15,000 award.

We are 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/startsaving](https://www.consumersenergy.com/startsaving) and download the application or call **877-607-0737** to learn more.