



Electricity



Gas



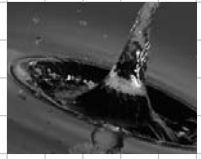
Energy Services



Bureau Services



Telecomms



Water



Client name:	Metflex Ltd
Type of business:	Component manufacturer
Facilities:	Factory of 5730m ² ; office of 1400m ²
Annual Energy Costs:	7.4 million kWh
Client Since:	

Metflex can trace its roots to the Metropolitan Leather Company which manufactured leather diaphragms for gas meters in the East End of London. When the original premises were destroyed in a bombing raid in 1940, the company along with 25 staff families relocated to their present site in Blackburn, Lancashire.

In the 1960s, the company was heavily involved in research into new materials and changed its name to Metflex to reflect its move away from leather into polymer diaphragm and precision moulding production. More than 10 million diaphragms are now produced annually and precision moulded rubber products are being supplied to the aerospace, automotive, hi-fi and leisure industries.

Working in an energy-intensive industry, Metflex had been trying for some time to reduce its energy bills and associated costs. In 2001, the company tried, through its trade association, to obtain a discount on the climate change levy. However, they were unsuccessful as they didn't meet the specific criteria required by that trade association's agreement.

In 2005, Metflex turned to **energyTEAM** for help. A visit to site by one of **energyTEAM's** specialist energy services team identified that the processes being carried out were eligible for a climate change levy discount – but not using the existing trade association agreement.

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energyTEAM identified another trade association that was more appropriate for the processes employed at Metflex and a climate change agreement application was made on behalf of Metflex in May 2005.

But further problems were to beset the company. Problems with the main gas meter had led to a long period of inaccurate readings and DEFRA initially refused the climate change agreement application as the energy data for the benchmark year was inaccurate. Metflex was also refused the full 80% discount as a portion of the energy was deemed not to be used for fuelling eligible processes.

Negotiations with DEFRA through the trade association by **energyTEAM** led to an acceptable compromise. Metflex now has a climate change agreement and, following further detailed submissions by **energyTEAM**, the resulting agreement is for the full 80% discount.

Metflex is now saving around £25000 per year. In return, as part of the climate change agreement the company has committed to reduce energy consumption.



energyTEAM's energy services division is fully accredited to the Carbon Trust. An energy survey of Metflex's operations, funded by the Carbon Trust, has identified opportunities to reduce energy consumption. A breakdown of these opportunities, showing capital cost and likely payback period has allowed Metflex to prioritise the projects needed to meet the energy reduction targets in its climate change agreement.

David Hudson, Metflex's Director of Purchasing and Facilities said: “We've known for some time that we could make big savings by being smarter with our energy use and applying for the right reliefs. The problem was working out what to do.

“Thanks to **energyTEAM**, we're now well on the road to reducing our costs considerably.”