

Continuous Improvement

The Fiberweb Washougal team has designed and implemented a core shaft handler to ergonomically improve the process of inserting and removing steel shafts from product rolls. The entire weight of the steel shaft is now carried by this device. This pneumatic-powered device also has adjustable controls that make operating this device easy for all employees.



The Fiberweb *Terram* team engaged in an assessment of the facility to identify opportunities that will reduce both carbon dioxide emissions and energy costs. The assessment has identified and prioritised energy and carbon savings in several areas, including raw material handling systems, extrusion equipment, and compressed air usage and lighting. In addition, an energy management system has been developed.

The Fiberweb *Tenotex* team has ergonomically improved the task of transporting rolls of product within the production process. Previously, employees used an overhead hoist to transport a roll of product from a slitter machine to a pallet, which required employees to exert a significant amount of force. The ergonomic improvement involved replacing the hoist with an electric-powered adjustable cart. Because the adjustable cart easily travels on floor rails, the amount of force required by the employee has been reduced significantly.



An increase in facility size and in the number of employees at Fiberweb *China* has created the need for a hot water system with a larger capacity. The team took this opportunity to convert its previous hot water heating system, which used steam, to a more energy-efficient solar system. The new solar system has reduced the amount of energy needed to provide hot water for its facility, especially during the winter months.



The Fiberweb *China* team has reduced its energy consumption by reusing hot air that is generated from its process. The process generates nearly 30,000 cubic metres/hour (m³/h) of hot air that was previously exhausted to the outside. By installing a heat exchanger, the facility was able to capture this hot air and reuse it to heat the facility. The heat exchanger significantly also reduces the daily demand for steam.

The team at Fiberweb *Berlin* has increased safety awareness by installing an HS&E-TV-System. The system is used to communicate HS&E performance, new safe work procedures, and HS&E technical and organisational issues. The presentations are changed every week to keep employees interested. Since the HS&E-TV-System has been implemented, the number of near-miss reports has increased significantly.

