

# Night Hawks

“Reducing idle losses”

## *Electric Hand Dryers Make Savings*

Savings do not always come from using less. Severn Wye Energy Agency have just installed equipment that will increase electricity consumption, but results in reduced Waste, Cost and Carbon Emissions .

It was decided to look at the overall impact of the paper hand towels that are used at our Highnam office in terms of waste, cost and carbon. The first two were relatively easy to calculate. The hand towels cost £330 to £380 to purchase a year and create around 50 bags of physical waste.

The carbon impact was more difficult to calculate with the estimates ranging from a single hand towel being equivalent to 6 to 15.5 grams of CO<sub>2</sub>. It was decided to be conservative and assume one paper hand towel was equivalent to 5g (this also makes calculations easier!) This results in an annual CO<sub>2</sub> from the hand towels calculated to be around 180kg per year.

There are many types of hand dryer out there and after some research it was decided to install two [Blow Motion White Cyclones](#). The decision for this choice were:

- The built in drip tray.
- Purchase cost.
- The high speed, but relative low energy consumption per use.
- Low standby energy use.
- Up to 8 decibels quieter than other similar models.

Local electricians [B.J Cowles](#) completed the install in a few hours one Friday morning and the units have now been working for a few weeks now.

It hasn't been all plain sailing and not everyone at the office was an immediate hand dryer convert. The main issue being the sound of the new units – while quieter than other models is a bit of an issue for some, but making sure that all doors are closed greatly reduces the effect.

As for the savings well we now have estimated financial **savings of £315 to £375** per year giving a return on investment of around 2 years. **50 fewer bags of waste** leaving the site and an annual **saving of over 140kg of CO<sub>2</sub>**.



Blow Motion Hand Dryer

### Participation

If your organisation would like to take part in the Night Hawks project or you would just like more information then please feel free to contact the business team at Severn Wye:

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**The Night Hawks Project is joint funded by:**



**The Night Hawks website is now up and running.  
Take a look at [www.night-hawks.eu](http://www.night-hawks.eu)**



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union