



CUSTOM PROJECT PUTS KINGERY PRINTING ON CUTTING EDGE

Celebrating 50 years of business in 2018, Kingery Printing has survived and thrived through changing times. When they founded the business back in 1968, John and Dolores Kingery could not have imagined the advanced technology that today puts the company one step ahead of competitors.

“We are a commercial printer based in Effingham, Illinois. We print magazines, maps — anything you could think of — for customers across the U.S.,” says Business Manager Jeff Hoene.

Until recently, the company dealt daily with a problem that has plagued all printers: fresh ink. Presses were equipped with an infrared lighting bar to dry the ink as the paper passed through. However, this traditional lighting never completely dried the ink, so printed materials had to sit for as long as 24 hours before handling. Even with lengthy dry times, protective coatings, and setting powders, issues with scuffing and smudging were a daily concern.

In 2016, Kingery Printing learned about a promising solution: an LED UV curing module from AMS Spectral UV. The state-of-the-art technology sets a new standard by using a blue LED curing light to instantly dry ink (not unlike the fast-drying gel manicures popular in your neighborhood nail salon).

There was only one downside: cost.

“We were looking at trying to retrofit an existing press with the new LED technology,” says Hoene. But with a price tag of \$375,000, “it was cost prohibitive without support.”

The support they needed would come from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.

The technology was so fresh it was not covered by any of Ameren Illinois’ standard energy efficiency programs. It was, however, a perfect fit for the utility’s custom incentive.

“We understand that a cookie-cutter approach does not work for every project. Our Custom offering provides incentives for unique projects or emerging technologies that save energy and money,” says Keith Martin, Director of Energy Efficiency Operations for Ameren Illinois. “Once Ameren Illinois learned about this energy-saving LED technology for the printing industry, we were pleased to provide an incentive that covered a significant portion of Kingery Printing’s project costs.”

“We are one of the first printers in the country to adopt this technology — and the incentives definitely made a difference.”

— Steve Gillespie,
Plant Manager

A Printer with a Lighter Footprint

Committed to eco-friendly printing processes, Kingery Printing recycles more than 90 percent of its scrap waste. Other green initiatives include facility upgrades to reduce the company’s footprint, such as motion-activated lighting systems and a humidification system to stabilize the moisture content of lightweight paper stocks. Beyond that, Kingery Printing Company is bi-certified for Chain of Custody standards established by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The company’s state-of-the-art LED UV curing systems have reduced its annual energy use by more than 673,000 kWh at the Effingham print shop. Those energy savings are equivalent to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from 107 cars for an entire year!

Stop the Presses for Custom Incentives!

Benefits to Kingery Printing

- Nearly \$62,000 in incentives
- Annual energy savings of more than 673,000 kWh
- Annual savings of more than \$40,000
- Better print quality
- Increased productivity

Unique Solutions Begin With You

The Ameren Illinois Custom offering provides incentives for projects or processes unique to your business. If you have an innovative idea for an energy-saving project that is not eligible for other Ameren Illinois incentives, you may benefit from our Custom incentives.

Cash incentives are available for a variety of electric and gas custom projects, including the following:

Electric Project Incentives

- LED lighting
- Compressed air
- New construction (excluding lighting)
- Large HVAC projects

Gas Project Incentives

- Grain drying
- Waste heat recovery for fuel-fired furnaces
- Reduced radiation loss from heating equipment

"This technology was completely new, yet Ameren Illinois understood the energy savings and was willing to step up and help."

— Jeff Hoene, Business Manager

According to Hoene, that incentive made all the difference in being able to complete the 2016 retrofit. As a result, the company has taken quality and productivity to unprecedented levels and achieved significant energy savings along the way.

"The new system uses a lot less electricity than our previous drying unit and delivers a much better-looking printed piece," says Hoene. "When the light hits the ink, it dries instantly on top of the paper. The ink doesn't soak into the paper, so the colors really pop."

The 2016 retrofit proved so successful that Kingery Printing purchased a new sheet-fed press in 2018 that incorporated the LED UV curing technology — and received another hefty incentive from Ameren Illinois to defray the costs.

The new press can churn out a whopping 3 million sheets a month.

"We've been able to increase press speeds by up to 25 percent because the ink dries as it's going through. We can then move the product right to cutters, folders and binders and get it out the door much faster," says Plant Manager Steve Gillespie. Further, "we don't have to redo jobs anymore or use protective coatings or spray powder because the ink is instantly dry."

Altogether, the new curing technology has reduced the facility's energy use by more than 673,000 kilowatt-hours a year. That equates to more than \$40,000 in annual energy savings — a big boost for the bottom line. Kingery Printing's innovative upgrades offer proof that you don't have to sacrifice quality for energy efficiency — often, the two go hand in hand.

"I'm a big supporter of the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program," says Hoene. "This technology was completely new, yet Ameren Illinois understood the energy savings and was willing to step up and help."

"We are one of the first printers in the country to adopt this technology — and the incentives definitely made a difference," adds Gillespie. "Without this program a lot of smaller printers would not be able to go ahead with improvements."

Thanks to advanced LED technology — and a little help from Ameren Illinois — this family-owned print shop will begin the next 50 years on the cutting edge.



Energy Efficiency. It's Good Business.

Since 2008, the award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has provided millions in incentives to help business customers reduce their annual energy costs.

Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air.



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