

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (CHP) IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SECTOR.

A guide to improving total cost of ownership.

Looking to cut down on your energy bills? Have a look at our guide to how CHP can boost the efficiency of your plant.

BUILT FOR IT.



What is CHP?

CHP stands for Combined Heat and Power and is sometimes known as cogeneration. It involves generating electricity while capturing the huge amounts of heat that is wasted in conventional power plants.

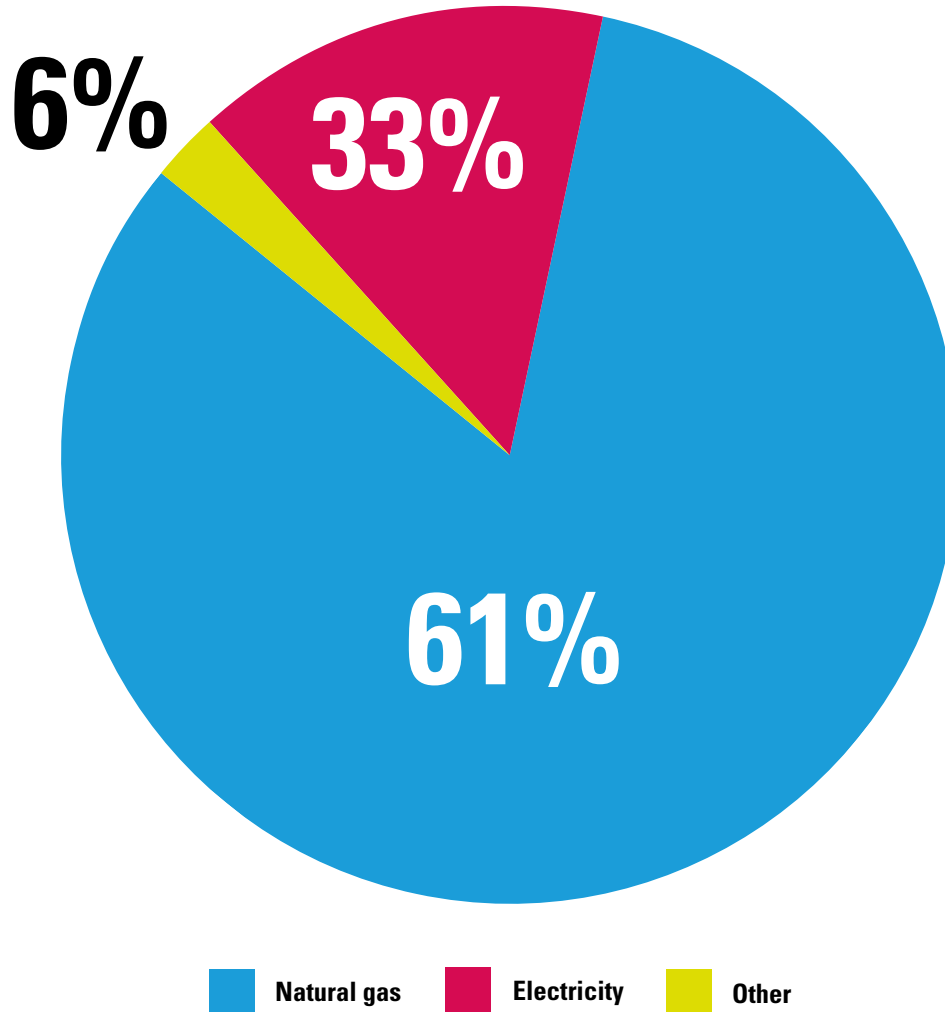
By taking advantage of this waste heat, CHP plants can reach efficiencies of more than 80 per cent while coal and gas fired plants struggle to achieve more than 40 per cent^[1].

This massive boost to efficiency can mean a significant drop in overall energy costs, which has a huge impact on spending in the heat and power hungry industrial manufacturing sectors.

FACT – There are already 58 food, beverage and tobacco production sites in the UK using CHP^[2].

FACT – Over the past ten years most industrial energy users had their costs rise by more than 120 per cent. CHP users saw their costs rise by less than half of that^[5].

Energy use by fuel in UK food & beverage manufacturing



Energy demands

From end-to-end the UK food chain employs 3.3 million people and accounts for £188 billion in consumer spending^[3]. This sheer scale means that the food and beverage sector is among the UK's biggest energy users, with manufacturing and processing alone representing more than 10 per cent of industrial energy use^[4].

Every year food and drink manufacturers use the energy equivalent of 2.8m tonnes of oil to heat, process and move their products. Of this energy, only 33 per cent comes in the form of electricity bought from the grid. The rest is in the form of fuels – the vast majority of which is natural gas – that can be used to produce heat and power on-site^[4].

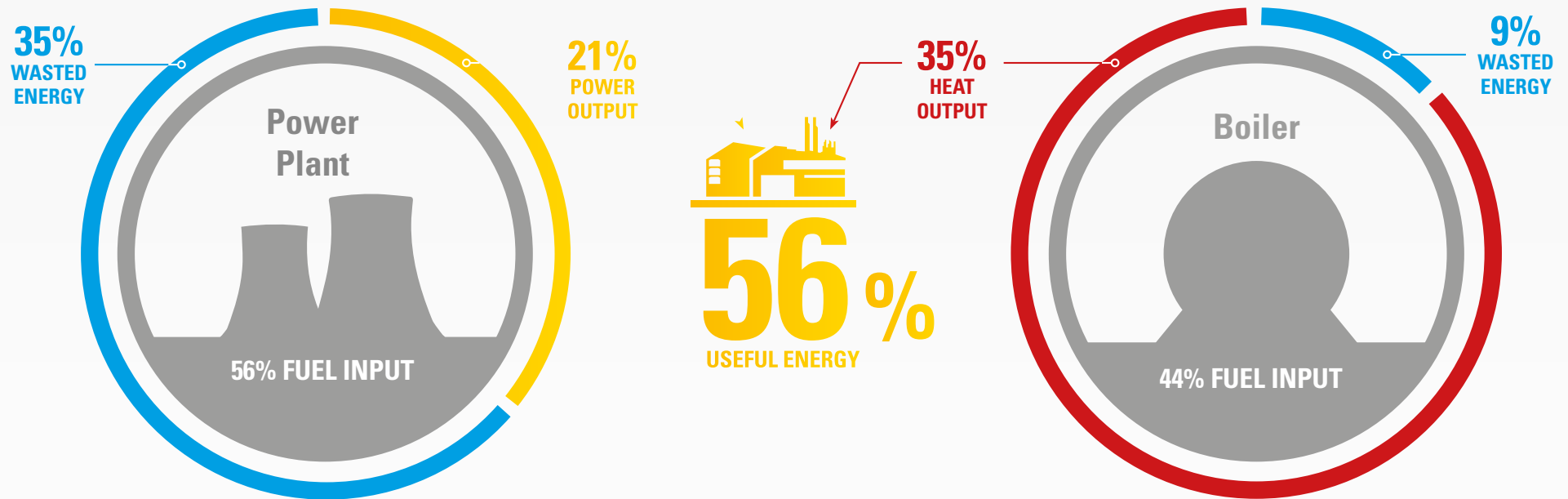
The amount of heating a site requires depends heavily on what it is producing, with bakeries requiring more than vegetable processors, for example. However, no matter what their focus, virtually every food and drink manufacturer across the country has a significant need for heating or cooling, where this goes towards steam-cleaning industrial cooking equipment or chilling dairy products prior to transport.

With such a high, steady demand for heat as well as power, many food manufacturing plants are perfectly positioned to take advantage of the benefits offered by CHP.

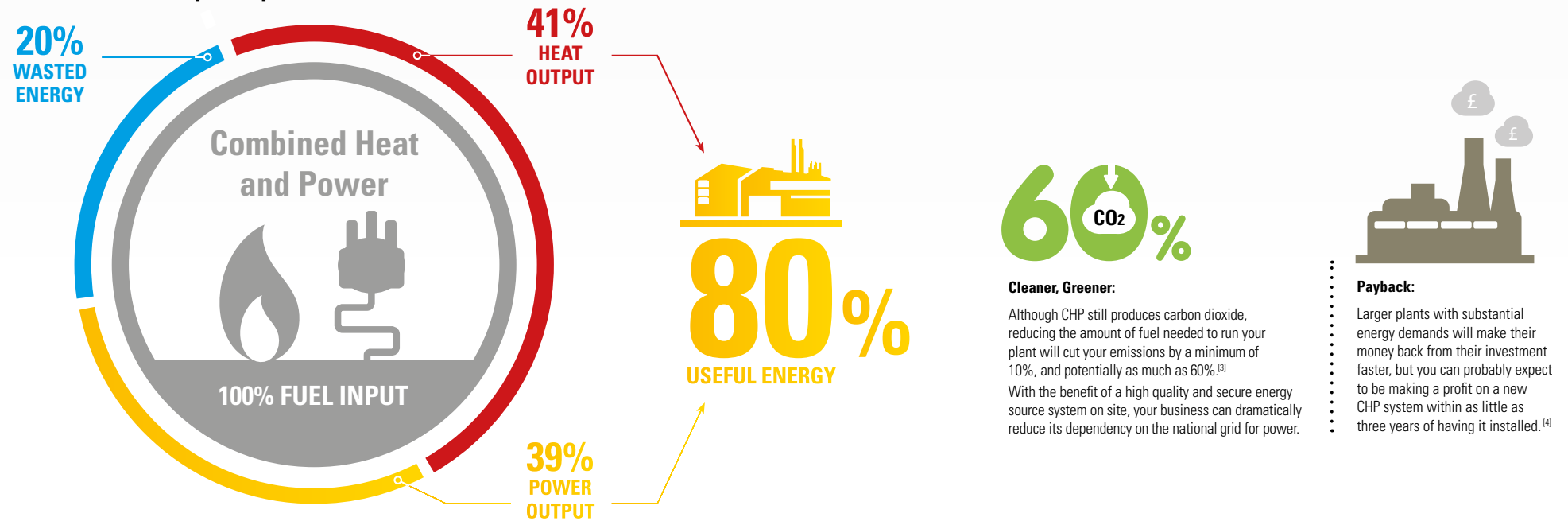
FACT – Depending on what a site is producing, some food and drink manufacturers may be able to use by-products or waste as fuel for modified CHP systems, further enhancing their efficiency:

Output for CHP compared to conventional power plants

Conventional boiler power plant



Combined heat and power plant



Why quality matters

When it comes to specifying a CHP system, reliability and quality are absolutely vital. For one thing, some government subsidies, payments and tax relief can only be applied to systems that are certified as 'Good Quality'.

In order to meet this standard, a CHP system's electrical efficiency must be over 20 per cent and able to deliver significant savings compared to conventional energy generation.

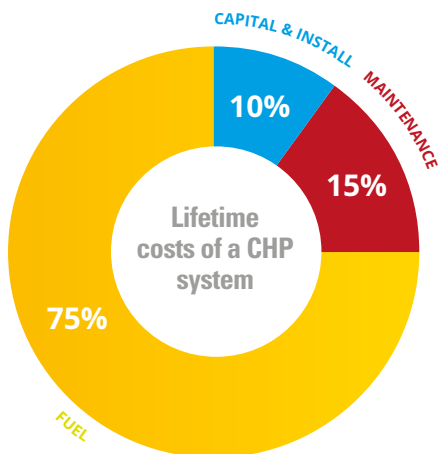
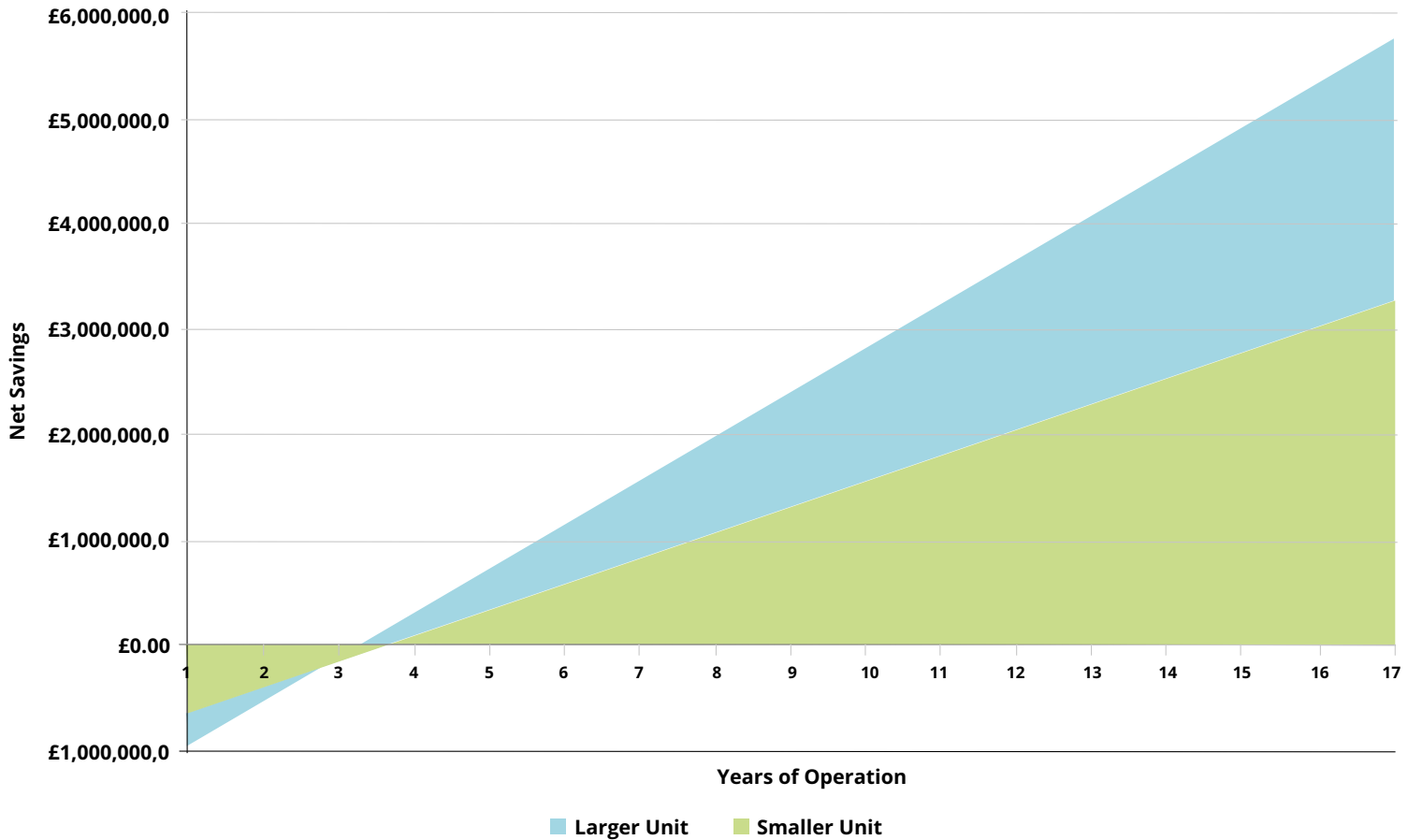
Long-term thinking

There's no denying that a new CHP system can be a substantial investment. Most food and beverage manufacturers will likely be looking at an up-front cost of several hundred thousand pounds, possibly edging into seven figures for bigger sites and more advanced technology.

With this in mind it's easy to see why it can be tempting to try and cut down on up-front spending with a cheaper, less efficient and less reliable system.

However, while this thinking may look good on this year's budget sheet, it can cost a business a significant amount of money in the long run. Assuming a standard 20-year lifespan for a system, maintenance costs alone will likely be larger than the initial outlay.

Even these will be dwarfed by the amount spent on fuel, which means that even a seemingly slight difference in performance can add up to major savings over the years.



How much could CHP save?

The exact savings that can be achieved through CHP depend on several factors, ranging from the cost of natural gas to the long-term quality and reliability of the system itself.

The biggest variable will be the size of the site. The more energy it needs the bigger CHP system it will be able to take advantage of, resulting in greater efficiencies of scale and overall savings.

If you're interested in details, Finning experts can carry out an energy audit of your paper processing facility that will not only show you what options are available, but how much you could save too.

FACT – Economies of scale mean that as the size of a CHP plant increases, its capital, installation and operation costs per kW of energy generated all fall^[6].

Funding your system

According to the UK government, as long as an industrial site has a steady demand for heat and power for more than 4,500 hours a year – a category most food manufacturing sites will fit into - a CHP system will almost certainly save it money^[7].

Securing finance can prove a major barrier to installing CHP. Although CHP is a long-term investment, it will often have to compete with other potential business projects that are closer to the company's core area activities. Furthermore, it may have to compete within a short-term appraisal environment.

By working with a supplier such as Finning it is possible to put together a firm business case that shows the benefits of CHP, and therefore makes it significantly easier to secure capital funding or debt financing.

Leasing

In many cases it can make more sense to lease a CHP system rather than buy it out-right. This may be in the form of a hire purchase, a finance lease or an operating lease.

Under a hire purchase agreement, the purchasing company pays in a series of payments over several years. The CHP system would initially remain the property of the supplier, but the customer becomes the legal owner once all the agreed-upon payments have been made.

Operations & maintenance

Arranging an operations & maintenance (O&M) contract when purchasing a CHP system can guarantee peace of mind and save you significant expense over the lifetime of the system.

Though each supplier will offer slightly different terms, these contracts usually guarantee that a system will receive regular maintenance from expert engineers and that any faults are corrected as quickly as possible.

Finning's own O&M contracts provide customers with regular services, priority on replacement parts and a guarantee that all equipment used is genuine. It specifies that you only pay when the system is operating, so Finning is sure to fix any issues as soon as possible.

Finning can also operate a system remotely, taking the day-to-day management out of a company's hands and making sure that experts are monitoring all the performance data.

FACT – CHP can reduce industrial users' primary fuel use by up to 30 per cent^[8].

Support

As CHP can dramatically cut the amount of energy a business uses – and therefore the amount of carbon it emits – the technology is supported by a number of government incentives.

Many of these depend on a system being certified as 'Good Quality'.



Climate Change Levy Exemption

This exempts companies using Good Quality CHP from having to pay the Climate Change Levy - which is charged on non-domestic energy supplies – on fuel used to run the system.

Enhanced Capital Allowances

The Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme allows businesses to write-off 100 per cent of their investment in Good Quality CHP.

Business Rating Exemption

Machinery and equipment used in Good Quality CHP systems can be written off from business rates.

Hydrocarbon Oil Duty Relief

If a company is using oil to run a CHP system they can claim back the hydrocarbon oils duty they will have paid on the fuel.

Bear in mind, however, that the rules around these various support mechanisms can change over time. The UK government maintains a guide detailing the current schemes a www.gov.uk/guidance/combined-heat-and-power-incentives

How much could CHP save?

Customer: UK biscuit producer

Product: Gas CHP unit 1.2MW

Capital Cost: £780,000

Operational Hours: 8,000 hours per year

Annual Savings: £290,000 (including operation & maintenance costs)

Payback Period: Less than 3 years



The information you need before proposing a project

- 1 Your site's annual heat and power requirements.**
- 2 Your site's electrical load profile.** It's more important to understand the base load profile rather than the mean or peak.
- 3 Your site's heat demands in both kWh and °C.** The exact configuration of a CHP system depends on both the amount and temperature of heat required.
- 4 How much you currently pay for heat generation using gas or oil and electrical power.** By knowing your current billing figures, you can produce a precise cost comparison demonstrating the potential savings to be made from each CHP system.
- 5 Which government support you can apply for.** CHP schemes can be supported by a large number of subsidies and tax breaks that can boost the savings they offer dramatically.

Total cost of ownership

A CHP system represents a substantial investment and when budgets are tight it can be tempting to try and make savings wherever possible, even if this involves specifying a cheaper – but lower quality – system or opting out of an O&M contract.

However, it's worth bearing in mind that a CHP system is an investment that will pay for itself over a course of years, if not decades. Over this length of time, the quality and reliability that comes from choosing a well-respected and trusted supplier will always be more than worth it.

What Finning can do for you

Finning is the sole UK supplier of Cat® engines and CHP systems. When you buy Cat equipment you can be guaranteed world-leading quality and reliability that provides you with the maximum efficiency available.

Finning also supplies O&M contracts that will provide you with peace of mind and ensure maximum uptime. You only get charged while the equipment is operating, so it is in our engineers' best interests to make sure any issues are dealt with as quickly as possible.



References

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[4] Energy consumption in the UK, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk>

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