

# New Technologies

Energy-efficiency is a key factor in most new machinery. Some come with tax incentives while those that use renewable materials might also qualify for VAT reductions. Remember that when it comes saving energy, up-front costs in new technologies can usually mean long-term gains.

## Using no-solvent based ink products

It has become increasingly easy for manufacturers to cut out heavy metals from the ink-making process. As a result, some printers have been able to eliminate solvents by using only vegetable-based inks.

For more detail look at *How to Become a Green Printer*:  
[www.envirowise.gov.uk/EN281](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/EN281)

## Adopting waterless printing

Conventional wet lithographic printing requires a dampening solution containing chemicals and isopropyl alcohol (IPA). Printing without water, however, uses less paper while raising print quality. It also makes your press more efficient. You can make the move to waterless printing either by converting your litho press or by purchasing digital imaging technology. Before making any decision you will need to weigh up any capital investment against the potential business benefits.

For more information, read *How To Convert To Waterless Printing*:  
[www.envirowise.gov.uk/GG391](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/GG391)

For strategies on cutting down on your use of damaging substances, such as IPA, see *Reducing IPA Use*:  
[www.envirowise.gov.uk/GG283](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/GG283)

## Key words

**Heavy metals** – toxic elements traditionally used in inks, such as lead, cadmium and barium.

**Wet lithographic printing** – a process that uses a flat plate on which the image is printed. It is 'wet' because the technique depends on the opposition of oil and water – with areas that reject water accepting ink and vice versa.

**Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)** – a mixture of water and propylene, it is a quick-drying substance commonly used as a solvent and cleaning fluid.

**Digital imaging** – reproducing digital images onto a surface, a technique that tends to use less chemicals and paper (especially in the preparation process).

\* see [NetRegs.gov.uk](http://NetRegs.gov.uk)

# Funds for Print

For more information contact Funds for Print at [info@fundsforprint.org.uk](mailto:info@fundsforprint.org.uk) or try the Environment and Energy Helpline on **0800 585794**.