



International Power reporting and the environment

Background

When selecting stocks for the annual report documents, it is always a fine balancing act between a number of defining criteria:

- quality issues – producing a report that reflects the global and professional standing of International Power as an organisation
- environmental credentials – choosing stocks from sustainable forestry sources and suppliers with international environmental accreditation
- cost implications – making sure that IPR is getting value for money for its shareholders
- technical requirements – ensuring that the selected stocks and the processes perform well, particularly in the tight timescales for production.

Printing

The Summary Report is produced using the heatset web offset printing process – large format presses that print at great speed and are therefore more economical for longer print runs such as the main shareholder mailing – this year we printed 375,000 copies of the Summary Report.

Paper

The process does not lend itself to 100% recycled stocks – both from a technical perspective and the quality of the end product; hence the choice over the last few years, of stock for the Summary, contains a minimum of 30% de-inked post-consumer waste, 10% mill waste; 60% of virgin wood pulp sourced from sustainable, managed forests.

However, a number of recycled qualities suitable for web offset printing have been launched this year. Tests were successfully run as part of the printing of this year's Summary Report that will enable the smooth transition next year to a stock that is comprised of 75% de-inked post-consumer waste, a more environmentally-friendly option.

Printing inks

It is not technically possible to use soya-based inks on heatset web offset presses because the pigment breaks up in the heat.

The Annual Report, with a much shorter print run of 50,000 copies, is printed using a sheetfed litho process which does use soya-based inks.

Environmental accreditation

Both printer and papermill are environmentally accredited to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard and the paper and printer both have FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) accreditation. These are both internationally recognised industry standards.



Mailing

The only options for wrapping and mailing are envelopes or film.

Envelopes are not an option for a mailing as large and as time critical as the International Power reports:

- The unit cost for envelopes is substantially higher than for film.
- The enclosing process is manual/much slower and it would take considerably longer if envelopes were used, which would also increase the mailing costs and possibly have a knock-on to the mailing schedule.

Polywrap International Power uses recyclable polywrap for its annual report mailings - and this is stated on the wrapper itself.

Some households, as part of their local council's environmental approach to waste segregation, have the facility to recycle polywrap; alternatively there are generally large segregated waste bins centrally located in large towns to deal with recyclable plastics.

There are biodegradable films on the market but the production processes for these is less environmentally friendly in terms of energy usage, and they are more expensive. They are also inherently unstable and not available in the weight (ie strength) to safely convey the report documents through the post.

Conclusion

As you can see, we are continually reviewing and improving the production process for the annual report publications to ensure that we meet both our commitment to the environment and provide value for money for our shareholders.