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Whether you are an advocate for cleaner energy, electric vehicles, using less plastic or reducing your overall eco-footprint, we should focus our attention on things we can do — big and small — to help reduce our impact on the environment and develop a plan for sustainable growth.

Over the years, there have been many aspects of paint booth technology that have evolved to reduce energy consumption and be more efficient, while also contributing to a more effective paint environment. Not only do these technologies reduce the environmental impact of operating a paint shop, they also lead to a cleaner, brighter and more productive shop. We have identified seven ways that you can start using less and cleaner energy in your shop:

1. ELECTRIC INFRARED CURING TECHNOLOGY

In increasing numbers, many people are switching to electric over gas — and it is no different in automotive collision repair shops. Infrared (IR) drying technology increases paint shop throughput by providing significant time savings over a traditional cure cycle or convection dryer, as vehicles do not have to sit overnight before polishing.

In gas IR systems, a catalytic reaction happens that decreases overall cure time; however, this does not happen until the units are preheated to 200 degrees

Fahrenheit, which can take up to 15 minutes. To prevent lost time during the warm-up period, gas catalytic units are typically left on all day, consuming a large amount of energy.

Short wave electric IR technology, such as REVO Accelerated Curing Systems from Global Finishing Solutions (GFS), generates only a fraction of the energy costs needed to run a conventional curing system by providing exceptionally fast drying times that reduce the need for rework. REVO Systems concentrate drying energy on only the panels needing repair, delivering an even, complete cure.

REVO Systems reach curing temperature almost instantly and are ready to cure a repair immediately. Cooldown is also quick, so the systems can be turned on only when needed and are safe to handle shortly after shutdown.

2. IFD LAMPS

It is no secret that LED lamps are an energy saver for your home and business, and they can now be easily integrated into your shop, paint booth or other finishing equipment for additional savings.