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## Energy Management in Plastics Processing : Strategies, Targets, Techniques, and Tools.

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## 5.38 Thermoforming - heating and cooling

### **Ceramic and Quartz infrared heaters**

Ceramic and quartz infrared radiators can provide up to 40% improvement in the energy used compared to older style convective rod heaters but this depends on the specific absorption characteristics of the material being formed. The better

response time of these elements also makes control much easier and it is possible to zone the heater banks to get the best heat distribution profile across the sheet and to control this heating profile within tight parameters (see [www.ceramicx.co.uk](http://www.ceramicx.co.uk)).

Use a thermographic camera to see where the heat is going and to optimise the process.