

ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND ITS CONSERVATION IN THE CERAMIC INDUSTRY

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The ceramic industry is one of the largest mineral based industries of the island. The industry is energy intensive and depend on vast quantities of thermal energy in the firing processes. This study is confined to the energy requirements of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation which operates 15 scattered ceramic plants. The total annual energy requirement of these units amount to 985,000 GJ thermal and 36,000 GJ electrical, costing Rs.55 Million. Studies are in progress on waste heat recovery, minimizing heat losses with proper insulation schemes and the formulation of new body compositions with a view to studying their behaviour under fast firing conditions. Initial results reveal that it is possible to conserve a considerable amount of energy in this industry. This project has been initiated with funding for equipment by the UNDP.