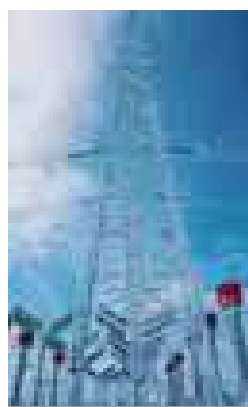


Case study: Schneider Electric Action Energy programme

Location: **UK-wide**

Offer: **Energy efficiency consultancy, project delivery & implementation and lifecycle services**



Schneider Electric is the world's power and control specialist and provides expertise in electrical distribution, automation and control through its Merlin Gerin, Square D and Telemecanique brands. In 2004 the company launched an energy management and conservation policy, but even with this in place our costs increased by 38% for electricity and 57% for gas between 2005 and 2006.

The senior management team was looking for a practical solution to managing and mitigating the impact of rising market prices of energy. This solution was to be implemented on all UK sites owned by Schneider Electric and had to be flexible in its approach to meet the individual needs of each site.

Solution

The starting point was to understand the baseline for each site. Schneider Electric's in-house energy consultants performed energy studies which determined seasonally adjusted energy consumption levels, the level of energy efficient products and technologies currently installed, and the behaviour and attitudes of site employees towards applying energy efficiency in their place of work.

From these surveys we were able to understand where there were key opportunities to implement energy saving product, technologies and behaviours.

There was no standard solution that we could implement across each site as they had different energy plant installed, had different purposes (some offices, some manufacturing) and had different levels of experience with applying energy efficiency techniques.

Return-on-investment calculations were performed to highlight the opportunities that provided a maximum 3-year payback in terms of the energy savings they gave once installed. These options were presented to the UK Managing Director for approval.

It was essential to get senior management buy-in, as this would drive the culture of the business towards a focus on energy efficiency. Once we had approval to go ahead with the delivery and implementation of our energy efficiency solutions, a steering group was formed.



This included members of the senior management team, the one of our Energy Consultants, the UK Energy Manager, a project manager and representatives from Finance, as well as the implementation teams.

One of the critical success factors of the project was employee involvement. We recognised that a solution would not work long-term without buy-in from employees, so we deployed a full hearts and minds campaign with information posters, email and intranet awareness campaigns and booklets containing tips for employees to use at home to save money, as well as at work. Competitions were run to get people actively thinking about energy and internal Energy Champions were selected to drive energy efficiency actions at a peer level.

At a product and technology level, we were able to install many solutions from our own range of energy efficient products, which are listed on the Government's Energy Technology List. These included **PowerLogic** metering and monitoring solutions, Clipsal C-Bus and Lubio lighting solutions, Altivar variable speed drives, Clipsal energy controllers and control and command devices. These were linked to intelligent control systems that automatically varied the lighting and temperature levels in the buildings depending on the external weather conditions.

To ensure we get long-term benefits from energy efficiency, we have implemented monitoring solutions that prominently display energy consumption on each site, and give us a real time view of any unexpected peaks in consumption. We have also developed an Energy Policy for Schneider Electric in the UK and use a balanced scorecard to measure our ongoing performance.

Benefits

Implementing energy efficient solutions on our own sites have provided Schneider Electric with sustainable savings. On a constant price base, they have saved us 14% of our total consumption costs in months.

By running a hearts and minds campaign we have created an environment where energy efficiency is owned by the employees, and sponsored by senior management. We have measures in place, which are reviewed regularly and will ensure the focus on energy efficiency does not go away.

An additional benefit is that our employees will be able to re-use the energy efficiency techniques learned here at home to save them money, and to help the environment.