

Energy management: The next stage

Switch off a light, turn off computers, change suppliers - it's all well and good to strive for improved energy management, but it will only be as successful as the people behind its implementation. John Coutts shines a light on the subject.

Energy management is now ranked as either "important" or "very important" by four out of five businesses, according to a recent BSI survey. And its significance is expected to increase over the next two years, with energy a board-level issue for a growing number of firms.

With the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) (now called the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme) set to impose mandatory caps on emis-

sions from April 2010, including penalties for non-compliance, energy efficiency is something companies cannot afford to ignore. Because CRC requirements will get progressively tougher as time goes by, one-off improvements are not enough.

The survey findings and the impending CRC requirements coincide with the September launch of BS EN 16001 Energy management systems.

The new standard allows organizations to improve energy efficiency, cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce energy costs.

It also meets the growing demand for a formalized approach to capturing and accounting for energy efficiency improvements

through the creation of an Energy Management System (EnMS).

"BS EN 16001 offers a structured framework to underpin ongoing improvements in energy efficiency," says Mark Fraser, BSI's group product manager for sustainability.

"Often, organizations carry out energy efficiency projects and it is just one hit.

But with the new standard, energy efficiency becomes embedded within the culture of the organization. It's about looking for continuous improvements.

"CRC has the effect of ratcheting down year-on-year, so you have to keep improving your energy efficiency," emphasizes Fraser. "Implementing BS EN 16001 allows businesses to

manage that process and it puts them in control."

Turning on to energy management

The new standard is designed to complement ISO 14001, the environmental management systems standard. BS EN 16001 provides a tighter focus on the energy aspects than is covered in the environmental standard.

As well as aiming to cut energy demand and save money, implementing the standard can help to insulate businesses from volatile energy bills. With companies trading on increasingly slender margins, a repeat of the fuel price shocks of 2008 could push hundreds of businesses to the brink.

Critically, the new standard commits senior management to adopt a policy of reduced energy use and promotes cultural change. Energy-saving endeavours have traditionally been the preserve of individual enthusiasts. But setting up an energy management system locks-in an enterprise-wide commitment to efficiency improvements.

BS EN 16001 has been launched following an extensive pilot sponsored by the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), with participants including Virgin Trains, SKF, Robert Wiseman Dairies plc, the City of London Corporation and ND Metering Solutions, which designs and manufactures advanced electricity metering equipment.

The standard is designed to be as transparent and easy to use as possible. Enterprises that choose to

implement BS EN 16001 must establish minimum reduction targets for each significant "energy aspect" identified in an initial review. Organizations must then establish reliable ways of measuring consumption data, such as automatic energy metering.

Ian Richardson, BSI's committee manager for developing sustainability standards, explains that BS EN 16001 was developed by experts in energy efficiency and energy management from across Europe, and that the UK was particularly active in strengthening the standard and its 'measurement' aspects.

"The standard encourages organizations to know which parts of their business consume the most energy and hence how they can go about reducing these elements," he says.

"This measurement, whether it be through metering or sub-metering, allows identification of significant energy aspects, giving companies who use BS EN 16001 the tools to reduce their costs and take steps to greater energy efficiency."

While organizations are able to self-certify to the new standard, it's anticipated that many will opt to take the full certification route, with regular independent assessments to demonstrate to customers and stakeholders that energy consumption is being managed effectively and - critically - improved.

A certification scheme that enables organizations to be assessed independently and certified to BS EN 16001 is being developed by BSI and a pilot assessment programme is now in

progress. A number of organizations that have implemented BS EN 16001 are currently being considered for the programme.

Assessments are due to start in November, 2009 and the pilot will run through January, 2010.

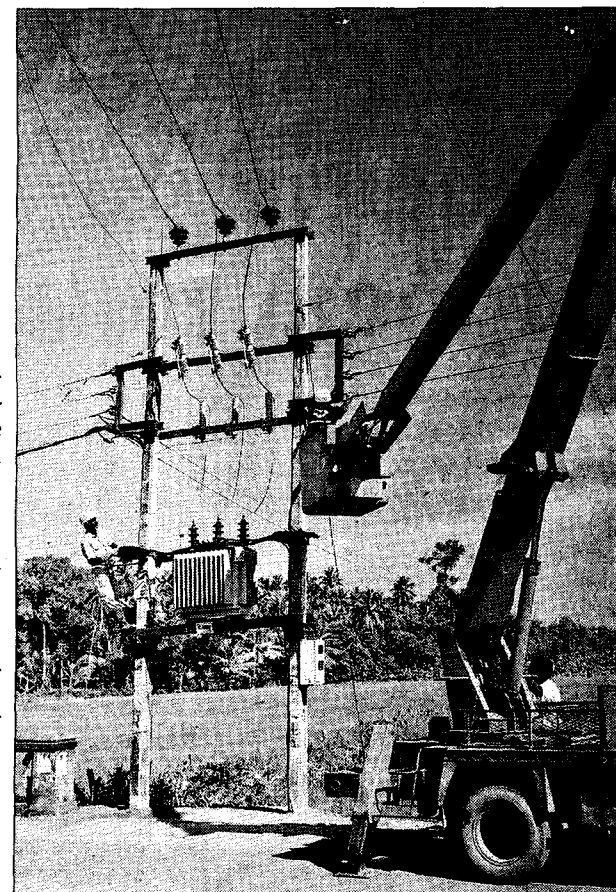
Energy training

The new standard is supported by a comprehensive training package, according to Victoria Barron, BSI's product marketing manager for sustainability:

"BSI recognizes that, for many, an energy management system is something quite new. We offer a range of energy management systems training courses for those who are new to the standard and management systems, as well as those who need to audit and improve an existing EnMS. Furthermore, our courses will help organizations to understand the benefits of becoming certified to BS EN 16001."

Businesses of all sizes can benefit from the creation of an EnMS, says BSI's Mark Fraser: "For SMEs in particular, implementing an energy management system sends out a strong signal to customers and it's a vital first step in becoming more environmentally responsible," he says.

"The UK Government is going to have to limit GHG emissions across more organizations and more sectors in order to meet ambitious national GHG reduction targets. This new standard will allow many organizations to understand and start managing their energy-related emissions ahead of an obligation to do so. *Business Standard.com*



The power link will enable the two neighbours to trade their surplus power

India-Sri Lanka power transmission link by 2013

The 285-kilometre power transmission link, including submarine cables of 50 km. and to be built between India and Sri Lanka, is likely to be completed by 2013.

The Rs.2,300-crore power link will enable the two neighbours to trade their surplus power, and to bridge their power-generation deficit and also manage their peak demands. Besides, it will pave the way for future trading of electricity between them.

India's largest electricity transmission company and the implementing agency, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., (PGCIL), hopes that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing the mega project would be signed with

the Ceylon Electricity Board, the largest electricity company of Sri Lanka, shortly.

PGCIL Chairman and Managing Director S.K. Chaturvedi said: "Work on the project should begin by February-March next year after the MoU is signed. It will take us two-and-a-half to three years to complete this project."

As per the PGCIL feasibility report, the undersea line will initially have a transmission capacity of 500 MW. Later, it could be increased up to 1,000 MW by 2016, when the power-generation capacities in the two countries improve, with surplus availability, especially in India's southern grid. *RTT News*



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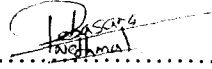
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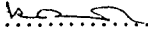
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