



A New Approach to Energy Management

Lincolnshire Police Authority is leading the way with its innovative approach to energy management. The organisation has been using TEAM software since 1998 and is now the first Police Authority to benefit from TEAM's Flexible Energy Manager service.

The Authority uses TEAM's *Sigma* software to analyse the utility cost and consumption data from its 45 sites. Since its introduction, however, several issues have prompted the organisation to expand its approach to energy management:

- A dramatic increase in contract fuel prices in 2006
- Impending statutory requirements to produce energy performance data
- The desire to present a more environmentally friendly image

Chris Hitchens, Estates Manager for Lincolnshire Police, is responsible for the organisation's energy spend. He believed that it needed to sharpen its focus on energy management to deal effectively with these issues and called on TEAM's Consultancy services to find an appropriate solution.

He said: "It was important first of all to find out where we were making substantial cost savings and the areas where we had an excessive energy spend. We were aware that TEAM offer a range of Consultancy services and so we approached them to initially carry out some free Carbon Trust survey work".

The survey assessed three key buildings that were typical of those belonging to the organisation and made a number of recommendations that highlighted some low-cost and no-cost savings opportunities. The survey report identified total potential savings of 3.5 million kWh (26%) in the overall energy consumption, worth £156,162 at prevailing prices. It further suggested that the cost of implementing the recommended measures (£261,500) could be recovered in approximately 1.7 years.

One of the key recommendations was the development of a corporate Energy Policy and Strategy. Chris saw this item as a priority and maintained it was essential to adopt a formal Action Plan in order to progress forward and achieve the targets set out in the survey.

It was at this point that TEAM's services were commissioned under the OGCBuying.solutions contract. The arrangement with OGCBs meant that the organisation did not need to undertake a time consuming tendering process in order to progress with the recommendations from the Carbon Trust survey.

Chris said: "The new policy is based on the Action Plan provided by the survey. Draft versions were prepared by TEAM Consultancy and presented at our Energy Group meetings to enable both administrative and operational staff to contribute to this process".

Lincolnshire Police has since retained the services of TEAM to help implement further recommendations from the survey. The relationship has now developed into TEAM Consultancy carrying out a Flexible Energy Manager role. The Carbon Trust suggests that organisations should aim to employ one full-time member of staff to manage each £1m of energy expenditure. As Lincolnshire Police has an energy spend of around £500k, an adaptable



arrangement with TEAM enables them to meet this objective.

Chris said: "The Flexible Energy Manager role meant that the Consultant could be contracted to work with us for a set number of days - in our case 45 days. This time period would mostly involve the Consultant undertaking work on site.

"The Flexible Energy Manager has been involved with numerous energy management activities including staff awareness training, carrying out feasibility studies and even rummaging around boiler houses and reading meters!

"Having the Energy Manager on site as required is an advantage, as they can access internal systems and are able to communicate with staff face-to-face. This service from TEAM is extremely beneficial as it is just like having an Energy Manager around but the organisation is spared the overhead costs of employing a full-time member of staff."

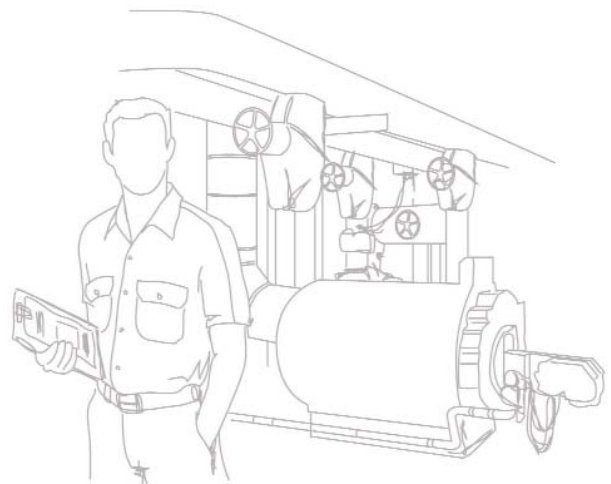
Current and future work

TEAM Consultancy is currently working with key members of police personnel to ensure they are using the TEAM *Sigma* software to its full potential. The Energy Manager carries out training on the various functions of *Sigma* and demonstrates how easy it is to generate useful reports. These will be posted onto the Intranet in order to make staff more aware of the energy used in their buildings.

Future work includes TEAM undertaking water surveys for the organisation and a full audit of the savings that have been achieved since the exercise began.

As a result of the working partnership between Lincolnshire Police and TEAM other police authorities in the country have shown considerable interest in carrying out similar work. Chris sees the Flexible Energy Manager role as a dynamic way forward and is extremely keen for forces within the East Midlands region to look at the whole picture when dealing with energy management.

He added: "I think it's important to realise that good energy management involves looking at a number of aspects from carrying out surveys, to using M&T software effectively and training all levels of staff. The Flexible Energy Manager role enables this to happen and we are hopeful that the positive affects of this approach will show in our annual audit next year."



TEAM (EAA Ltd)

34 The Forum, Rockingham Drive
Linford Wood, Milton Keynes
MK14 6LY, United Kingdom
Tel: 01908 690018

Email: enquiries@teamenergy.com
Website: www.teamenergy.com



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