



Energy. Managed.



Somerset County Council Case Study

Sigma Energy Viewer

Somerset County Council moves forward with its Energy Plan thanks to TEAM.

Somerset County Council is one of the largest employers in Somerset and is committed to becoming the UK's greenest council as it strives to cut CO2 emissions and reduce energy bills.

The Council is a long-term user of TEAM's software products and has successfully adopted one of TEAM's latest software developments, Sigma Energy Viewer, which provides a quick overview of site energy and billing data.

Background

Somerset County Council has a large and diverse estate consisting of 149 corporate buildings including museums, offices, day centres and libraries as well as their 270 schools.

The council has used TEAM Sigma energy monitoring and targeting software for over 11 years to validate bills and analyse AMR data.

Reducing the size of its Carbon Footprint has been high on the council's political agenda ever since the CRC was introduced in 2010.

The council spends £6.5 million a year on energy and is often faced with significant financial pressures. Over the last few years it has been severely impacted by climate change and has faced a number of major flooding catastrophes. As a community leader it has a responsibility to reduce its carbon footprint and influence local residents and businesses to do the same.

As part of its energy policy plan Somerset County Council intends to invest in energy efficiency; consider life-cycle costs for all new products, goods and services; minimise environmental impact and where financially beneficial utilise energy from sustainable sources. It also wants to increase staff awareness, monitor and target energy usage and manage energy and water costs within buildings.

Sigma Energy Viewer

Whilst at Somerset County Council the energy management team is responsible for contract management, bill validation at high level, developing policies and looking at building energy efficiency improvements, they make their premises managers responsible for managing cost and consumption on-site.

This includes recording and submitting meter reads where AMR is not present and re-enforcing and implementing good energy management practice with building users. Site managers also liaise with the Energy management team to report issues with billing and any factors that impact on the building's energy performance.

Abigail Lamberti, the council's Energy Manager, wanted a tool that would allow site managers to see at a glance how much energy they use, make comparisons and set targets – the Sigma Energy Viewer has helped provide just that!

Sigma Energy Viewer is an easy-to-use browser-based software system which provides a quick overview of site and energy billing data. The software allows large multi-site organisations to share energy data with site contacts and enable them to enter meter readings, view bills and analyse data.

Abigail Lamberti explains, "With an energy management team of three we can't physically go out to each site and manage the operational day-to-day use of energy. So, we needed a tool to help us delegate the energy responsibility to site level."

Benefits

Using the Sigma Energy Viewer has helped the council to manage its energy costs and consumption and by reducing its energy waste it continues to make savings and reduce its bottom line spend.

Abigail Lamberti comments, "The Energy Viewer provides a key tool to help us deliver our energy policy objectives. We have given logins to premises managers so they can see the energy data for their site, including gas, electricity and water bills as well as AMR data all in one place. We have had very positive feedback from sites, and it has helped enhance the success of our existing energy awareness campaign."

"TEAM have helped me in my role as Energy Manager and if I have any questions or need help with analysis they are at the other end of the phone. If you have a big estate to manage an energy management tool like TEAM Sigma is brilliant. We wouldn't be able to manage our large estate without it." adds Abigail Lamberti.

Savings

Somerset County Council is predominantly using the Sigma Energy Viewer to view AMR data for gas and electricity but has now started looking at its water data.

Once the council receives AMR data from the water company Abigail Lamberti and her team upload it onto TEAM Sigma.

Abigail Lamberti comments, "Thanks to TEAM's Energy Viewer we quickly identified a water leak in the main council building, which has helped us make savings of £8,000 per year."

The future

Increasing training and rolling out Sigma Energy Viewer to other sites is high on Somerset County Council's agenda, along with a mix of other key projects.

Going forward the council wants to make sure site managers have the skills and tools to control operational energy in their buildings, so it will be providing training on energy auditing and advice on reading bills.

The council is currently rolling out TEAM Energy Viewer across 419 of its corporate sites and schools.

A quarterly newsletter, Watts On, has been launched to keep premises managers up to date with energy saving ideas and tips on how to use Sigma Energy Viewer.

Abigail Lamberti comments, "80% of both our corporate sites and schools are now using Sigma Energy Viewer and the feedback we've received has been great."

Feedback

EAM's Sigma Energy Viewer has helped enhance Somerset County Council's energy awareness and has been well received across all its sites.

Abigail comments, "It's a simple, easy to use tool, which saves on staff time, helps us to identify savings and plays a key role in our energy strategy."

Ann Watkins, Library Operations Manager at Yeovil Library, which is owned by Somerset County Council comments, "The new system looks excellent. Straightforward and easy to use. Very intuitive and easy to navigate. I found the meter analysis very useful, by hovering over the graph, output for different times of day can be viewed at a glance. Obviously, a lot of work has gone into the Energy Viewer, to make it as user friendly as possible and I can see no reason why any site would not find it useful."