

Wincanton Corby: How to keep energy costs stable in a climate of rising utility prices while actually growing your business volume by 15%?



Wincanton, a leading provider of supply chain solutions, knows how because that's exactly what its Corby site team did in 2012 after implementing the Optimal Monitoring Carbon Management platform at their automated warehouse site in, Northamptonshire.

John Hands, Engineering Systems Team Leader at Wincanton's Corby site, explains: "Throughout 2012 we saw an increase in business volume of 15%, with a lot more staff on the site and an increase in operational hours. However, despite these changes in equipment use and site running costs, we had the visibility of our energy usage to ensure that our utility costs remained stable and we were able to manage the running of our facilities as economically as possible."

Using the Optimal Monitoring program, the Wincanton Corby site was able to monitor its energy use in real-time and respond to increased, excessive or unnecessary usage immediately.

The system is also being used to display the Corby site's improving green profile to colleagues, visitors and customers through Optimal's graphic dashboard display in the reception area. actively demonstrating Wincanton's commitment to carbon emissions reduction.

RESULTS

- January to November 2011, processed 345,560 pallets
- January to November 2012, processed 396,584 pallets , up almost 15%
- effective energy management process, ensured energy consumption rose by only 0.3% up 2,574 kWh to 866,143 kWh for the same period.

CASE STUDY: WINCANTON CORBY



As the Corby site became involved in the use of the Six Sigma processes and methodologies, an industry-standard quality management program designed to improve process outputs by identifying and removing the causes of defects, it was identified that there was a need to focus on energy consumption.

Operating on a Building Management System (BMS) installed after construction of the site at Corby in 1995, Wincanton only had access to half hourly data from its electrical provider. With customers including retail and grocery brands, the support requirements differed significantly from customer to customer, making visibility of energy usage critical. John says: *"We only had very limited visibility of our electricity usage and absolutely no visibility of our gas usage. However, as we support a number of different customers who all have entirely individual needs we are required to operate our facilities in uneven peaks and troughs of activity throughout the day. An understanding of the impact of sporadic activity on our utility costs was vital. We needed to get down to the sub-distribution board level to pinpoint which equipment was using the most power and at what time."*

The team therefore examined the energy and utilities monitoring market to identify

the most appropriate technology and service. While various systems were considered and even tested, the usability and access to real-time data made Optimal Monitoring stand out from the competition as the most advanced and appropriate system for them.

John adds: *"Constant real-time visibility of energy usage, and therefore a detailed understanding of carbon emissions, was the last piece of the puzzle for the Six Sigma project. Operating a fully automated warehouse and only having access to "day + 1" half hourly data from our electrical supplier could not show immediate individual equipment usage levels and left us with a limited understanding of what was actually happening on the site, and no ability to be proactive."*

Since introducing the Optimal Monitoring Carbon Management System at the start of 2012, Wincanton Corby has been able to identify specific areas of electricity consumption where positive improvements could be made without operational impact, relating specific spikes in energy to specific actions.

Within a year the Optimal Monitoring Carbon Management Platform has provided invaluable insights, allowing Wincanton Corby to proactively respond

to situations as they occur. This is in contrast to monitoring energy usage through the pre-existing electricity supplier which was at best only available data one day in arrears and could not give detail on the individual usage levels of a specific facility or piece of equipment.

"With a 15% increase in materials handling," says John, "we anticipated a similar energy cost increase. However, using the Optimal Monitoring system we were able to contain energy costs through improved operational management." This minimal utility usage increase was a direct result of the real-time visibility of energy usage data that Optimal Monitoring provided, and therefore Corby's ability to rapidly identify areas where savings could be made.

Thanks to Optimal's dashboard display tool in Wincanton Corby's reception area, the company also has graphic evidence of its progress. John concludes: *"The excellent visibility of our energy usage that Optimal Monitoring provides has allowed us to reap remarkable financial and efficiency benefits. Furthermore, being able to show both existing and potential customers our carbon emissions levels and the measures we have put in place to reduce energy consumption, demonstrates to visitors that we are serious about carbon emissions reduction and being an environmentally responsible business."*

Optimal Monitoring are specialists in the design and delivery of Energy Monitoring, Analytics and Reporting Software.

With over twenty years of industry experience, UK based Optimal Monitoring enables organisations across divers sectors from manufacturing, logistics and offices

through to councils, hospitals and schools to make smarter decisions about utility consumption and the impact on corporate social responsibilities.

Optimal's Energy Monitoring and Reporting Software processes data from many disparate sources in real-time and delivers it tailored to the

needs of specific users using its unique industry specific reporting toolset.

With an impressive list of clientele, Optimal Monitoring work in partnership with its customers to ensure a professional and dedicated service offering including specialist advice and support at every stage.

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