

# NoWatt



## NoWatt Case Study

### The Customer: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council is the public service provider for the metropolitan borough of Tameside, located to the east of Greater Manchester. Tameside Council provides services to an estimated population of 214,000 people in 91,000 households.

Far-sighted in its energy initiatives, Tameside Council responds to government energy targets and pro-actively implements sustainability schemes. They address National Indicator 185 which requires CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from local authority operations and participate in the Carbon Trust's *Carbon Management Programme* which requires a 10% reduction in overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2015.

### The Challenge

Revathi Balasubramanyam, Energy Manager for Tameside Council, wanted to take Tameside Council's energy initiatives further and drill down on the Council's energy use and costs. "We were unable to apportion electricity usage appropriately. We needed to understand our electricity consumption and associated costs."

Revathi also wanted to test energy saving infrastructure changes before a full rollout. "We wanted look at changing the currently-installed T8 lighting tubes with more energy efficient T5 tubes and provide a business case for the replacement of these across the Council buildings. We also wanted to see if the luminance level was adequate for the corridors."

### The NoWatt Solution

The goals were clear, but Revathi needed an innovative way to measure energy consumption at a more granular level. In NoWatt she recognised a cost-effective solution.

"The NoWatt installation went well", says Revathi, "there were no issues to report and the disruption to normal operations was very limited."

"With NoWatt we are able to monitor the exact energy usage in the Town Hall and inform the budget holder of their portion of the energy bill. We don't have to guess anymore."

Revathi  
Balasubramanyam  
Energy Manager,  
Tameside  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council

## The Results

With NoWatt, Tameside Council was able to perform a 'before and after' comparison of the lighting infrastructure and was surprised by the results. While the T5 bulbs were purported to bring an estimated 30% reduction in energy, on the contrary NoWatt showed that consumption had risen.

Using its granular data, NoWatt investigated the problem and found the error lay with the installation of the light fittings: in order to realise the 30% saving in consumption, the existing T8 light fittings needed to be adjusted. "NoWatt provided data to show that it wasn't a straight-forward case of just switching the light tubes over," agrees Revathi.

The NoWatt installation has met Tameside Council's expectations. So far, Tameside Council has a greater understanding of the cost of the Town Hall's electricity consumption Revathi is planning to monitor consumption in a more detailed fashion later in the year.

## The Benefits

NoWatt delivered Tameside Council the data it needed to measure the impact of equipment changes - a result that half-hourly monitoring systems could not match.

And what of the need to gain a greater understanding of the energy costs at the Council buildings? "We are now able to monitor the exact energy usage from our Town Hall and also account for this usage. NoWatt has given us the data we need to inform the budget holder of their portion of the energy bill. We don't have to guess anymore," confirms Revathi.

Asked whether she would recommend NoWatt, Revathi Balasubramanyam responds with a resounding "Yes. We now plan to monitor other specific circuits to ensure that as we make infrastructure changes we are benefiting from the expected reduction in energy consumption."

NoWatt's data is central to energy management and will help to support Tameside in continuing to drive progress to meet national energy targets, measure the impact of infrastructure changes and drive down energy spend.

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## BENEFITS

Collect granular data needed to measure progress against national energy targets

Measure and understand the impact of infrastructure changes to drive down energy spend

Validate suppliers' claims on energy-saving equipment

