

NoWatt

NoWatt Case Study

The Customer: Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is a public service provider for the borough of Bury, a community north of the City of Manchester. With over 8,000 employees, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is the largest employer in the area and likes to lead by example across different initiatives.

The Challenge

In February 2003 the UK Government published an Energy White Paper setting out a national energy policy. The white paper expects local authorities to play a crucial role in changing behaviour to reach the Government's long-term energy targets. Mr. Smith, Principal Electricity Engineer and Energy Manager for Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, knew he needed more detailed information about the council's energy consumption, but had no means of getting it.

The NoWatt Solution

When Smith first heard about NoWatt, he was intrigued. A keen advocate of how new technology – and specifically new energy-saving technology – could be applied to the council's work, Smith decided to go ahead with a NoWatt pilot project. As a location he chose to install NoWatt in a four-storey building built in the 1970s containing the space for about 150 employees.

Smith's primary goal was to understand energy use in the building. With that in mind, the NoWatt installation was designed to give him both an overview of the building's overall energy consumption, as well as detailed analysis floor by floor.

"The installation was very quick", commented Smith, "and with little disruption to the day to day operation of the building. We were able to carry on with business as usual throughout."



"NoWatt gives me very detailed information about energy use. It gives me a more comprehensive energy profile than was possible with my building management system alone."

Mr. Smith
Energy Manager
Bury Metropolitan
Borough Council



The Results

The NoWatt solution quickly started to give Smith very granular information about the building's energy consumption. Not only was he now able to view energy usage down to a mere six sockets and compare consumption between floors, but he could also spot any problems with the building's energy infrastructure.

Once installed, NoWatt performed some initial analysis of the building's energy usage. As anticipated, they found that every night the energy usage dropped. However, every weekend there was an unexpected – and constant – amount of energy being consumed in the empty building. NoWatt was able to pinpoint exactly which equipment was consuming the energy: a passive infrared (PIR) switch: it was automatically switching the lights on - a clear malfunction. Within a matter of moments, NoWatt was able to highlight an immediate means to stop energy wastage and reduce the building's electricity consumption. This one malfunctioning PIR alone was costing Bury Metropolitan Borough Council up to £500 per year.

The Benefits

Smith is clear about the main benefit of the NoWatt solution: "It gives me lots of very detailed information about energy use."

Having access to the granular energy consumption data from NoWatt helps Smith to determine which sustainability initiatives will have the most positive impact on Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. The NoWatt information also complements Smith's building management system, giving him a much more comprehensive energy profile than was ever possible with just the building management system alone.

"I would definitely recommend NoWatt," concludes Smith. "Information is central to energy management and NoWatt gives me all that I need – and more."

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BENEFITS

Understand a building's energy consumption

Compare energy usage between departments

Identify malfunctioning equipment

Create a comprehensive energy profile

