

7 Steps to Energy Management

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I get asked frequently about energy management and how to implement a program. I thought I would recommend to you my 7 Steps in getting your energy management program going.

Step 1: Develop a clear and consistent Conservation Directive from top Executive Management – Delivering consistent, simple objectives for workers to follow helps ensure continued energy management awareness and develops a long lasting focus on the importance of conservation.

Step 2: Utilize all your existing energy data – By simply understanding the details behind your utility and energy bills and knowing how to ask the right questions, you can get the data you need to track past, present, and future performance.

Step 3: Employ a team-based approach (start a Green Team) – Selection of appropriate, yet diverse personnel for an energy management team is essential to initiating and sustaining the effectiveness of your efforts. A team-based approach with multi-functional representation is the most effective method to get results while mitigating potential adverse effects of conservation measures on individual departments.

Step 4: Engage an Energy Mentor – Mentor, Manager, Guru, whatever you call this person, it is important to have someone on your team who is both technically knowledgeable and has the real life experience of successfully challenging the status quo and implementing change in energy efficiency.

Step 5: Improve operations and maintenance of existing equipment – Two reasons for this is that it gives you an affordable, immediate result before spending capital (possibly deferring it) and also proves that since you can effectively operate and maintain your existing equipment, you can be trusted to do the same for new, energy-efficient systems.

Step 6: Set achievable energy performance goals and actions – By thoroughly understanding your operations and energy data first, you can intelligently determine achievable goals that will help meet specific business targets. This allows actions to be focused directly on what matters most to your business.

Step 7: Monitor results and adjust plans accordingly – The only way to determine if your energy management plan is working is to develop and track energy performance indicators including external factors like production, operating hours, weather, occupancy, etc. This allows you to truly understand the impact of your program's conservation measures in relation to your business dynamics.

By following a systematic approach and applying the proper elements of energy management, you can create an effective, sustainable, energy management program.