

Supporting sustainability for a global restaurant chain

One of the UK's most popular global restaurant chains has been partnering with npower Business Solutions (nBS) since 2010 to find ways to decrease its substantial and growing energy costs and support the business's wider sustainable business goals.

The team at nBS started by ensuring that its client had accurate and timely data to monitor performance and then measure the effectiveness of any energy efficiency initiatives.

Thanks to detailed data collection and nBS's innovative Intelligent Analytics energy management platform, multiple sites are now tracked using real-time data. It is also possible to drill down into Half-Hourly (HH) data for more detailed analysis, for example, to see if lights or equipment have been left on, or the settings on the Building Management System (BMS) are not optimal.

This consumption visibility also makes it possible to assess the effectiveness of each new energy efficiency measure implemented – for example, installing timers and temperature thermostats or cleaning the condensers on refrigerators.

Tracking trends and ranking multiple sites

The Intelligent Analytics software provides the customer with regular reports, so that it can look at trends and rankings for multiple sites and can then adjust these for variables such as weather variations or number of customers served. Data can also be analysed per customer rather than by square metre, which gives the restaurant chain a more accurate assessment from which to compare performance.

Using Intelligent Analytics has supported this client in becoming 27% more energy efficient since 2007, in terms of kilowatt hours (kWh) per customer.

Getting sites involved

The Energy HQ Team at nBS also regularly visits client sites to help managers better understand invoicing and identify energy efficiency opportunities.



Buying renewable power direct

A few years ago, nBS agreed an innovative 20-year supply deal for 100% renewable electricity with this client. The contract is complex, as it not only supplies multiple companies (the chain has several franchisees as well as restaurants under direct ownership), but also includes renewable power sleeved in under a number of different Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

PPAs via third party generators include four solar farms, providing about 12% of the company's electricity for 20 years. A further three are with wind farms in Lancashire and Yorkshire, supplying more than 30% of the total electricity over a 15-year period. nBS provides the remaining renewable certified power via an nBS supply agreement.

Greater certainty for future costs

As well as supporting a strong environmental brand statement, buying energy this way also provides far greater cost certainty as the restaurant chain knows exactly what it is paying for energy over a long period.

In any business – and especially one in a very competitive sector – being able to budget more effectively with certainty for the long-term is very desirable.



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