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A sound management plan can stabilize energy usage

Today's volatile and unpredictable energy markets can play havoc with a facility manager's budget.

In response, many facilities are changing the way they manage energy by tapping a building's internal operating systems to capitalize on the flexibility of new technology. Sophisticated energy-management tools can lower and stabilize energy usage and reduce a company's carbon footprint.

In office buildings, hotels, factories and campuses across the region, facility managers and systems integrators are collaborating to bring a myriad of operations, including lighting, ventilation, heating and air conditioning, on to one comprehensive IT management platform.

Sophisticated energy-management tools can lower and stabilize energy usage and reduce a company's carbon footprint.

Shifting the paradigm even further, facilities are improving upon these systems by partnering with energy suppliers to incorporate energy supply and demand response information onto these platforms.

Demand response or load response is a comprehensive program that enables facility managers to monitor and evaluate energy consumption across a wide range of operating systems and curtail usage in response to changing market conditions or prices.

Integration of operations and IT systems with energy supply and demand informa-



INSIDER VIEW

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tion results in a more intelligent building. The access to this information enables facilities management to view a building's entire energy consumption comprehensively through one lens and respond accordingly to exercise the flexibility of the energy load across many operating systems.

This successful bridging of energy supply with actual on-site demand reduction efforts and technology addresses a variety of needs from the corner office to the control room. In addition to the savings realized through more energy efficient systems, facilities participating in load-response programs receive other financial incentives, including savings that are linked to the monetary value of the electricity which remains on the grid through the building's conservation efforts.

By incorporating load-response metering and real-time market pricing into existing energy-management techniques and multiple building systems, facility managers will find themselves in the driver's seat of a smarter and more energy responsive building.

These techniques are an especially necessary component in existing buildings with older infrastructures. The upgrades can make older buildings nearly as efficient as newer buildings with the latest energy de-

sign and equipment. Facilities of all types that integrate advanced load-response programs are able to shed load and shift electricity consumption from periods of high prices to periods of low prices and reduce overall energy costs in the process.

As efficiencies increase, facility managers and company executives are also partaking in good environmental practices. As the awareness and concern around climate change grows, many companies are recognizing the opportunity to shrink their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency.

By freeing up additional kilowatts to be made available on the grid, facility managers are eliminating the need to fire up older gas, oil or coal plants to meet the peak demand. Lowering emissions is key to reducing carbon levels and combating climate change.

Proper management of energy can be a strategic asset integral to every aspect of a company's bottom line. However, in order for companies to benefit from more sophisticated energy management, there must be an equally progressive operational structure at the facility to monitor, anticipate and respond accordingly to the fluctuating energy market.

By joining a building's IT platform with robust load-response programs, managers and corporate executives gain the necessary tools for managing energy demand and consumption. They also gain a critical competitive advantage in the increasingly sophisticated energy marketplace.

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