

How Pret a Manger optimised energy use using Enistic's submetering solution



“ We were impressed by the amount of time ... spent analysing each of the stores individually before we even started talking to the utility companies. ”

Finance Director - Pret A Manger



Background

Enistic and Sustainable Advantage have worked together on a number of projects dating back to 2010 including a project for ISS Facilities Services and Hewlett Packard. Sustainable Advantage helps organisations embrace sustainability for strategic advantage, reducing their carbon footprint through reduced energy consumption. This process typically begins with installing Enistic sub-metering to gather utility usage data.

Project Aims

With 335 stores worldwide Pret is a major energy user. Re-evaluating the chain's sustainability strategy meant looking at resources such as electricity and water and what could be done to reduce use and emissions. This also included looking at costs which, given that Pret's electricity spend is now about £5m, was definitely a priority.

Linking the 'positive' signal of sustainability with cost savings for the business makes commercial sense. As electricity costs were getting to such a point Pret needed external help to create a strategy for cost reduction and usage.

In 2011 SA was engaged by leading food retailer Pret to support a sustainability strategy which included optimising energy use and reducing energy consumption.



How we did it

The pilot program included:

- Installing smart meters in approximately 10% of the estate to gain an in-depth understanding of how each item of equipment uses energy and how this varies over a 24 hour period.
- Engaging with staff to increase awareness on how their behaviour impacts energy usage. This included training an energy champion per store.
- Trialling over 20 new capex items that would reduce energy used.
- Monitoring energy usage over half hourly periods and identifying potential issues.
- Creating league tables per store to show weekly budget vs actual performance and sharing best practice across the estate.

Enistic provided the smart metering technology that underpinned this successful project.

“ If I had to single out one key element in the process that was worth its weight in gold (or coffee beans) it was the fact that we fitted sub-metering to 13 of the 250 stores at the outset and that every item in those stores that used energy had real time information on the usage. ”

James Stander - Sustainable Advantage

Outcome

Moving forward Sustainable Advantage find that as with all of their energy clients, purchasing the energy is only the start of their service and they are now:

- Monitoring the energy usage in each store monthly, along with compiling league tables.
- Providing monthly bill validation.
- Assisting with budgeting and analysing variances in budget vs actual per store.
- Increasing staff awareness & training of green champions.
- Rolling out further smart meters within stores.

“ One of the best decisions we made was allowing SA to install sub-metering in 13 pilot shops so we could understand where we were being inefficient and whether it was behavioral change or a capex fix . . . The key for Pret in order to achieve its objectives is quality, regular management information from which it can make informed decisions quickly. ”

Sustainability Co-ordinator, Pret-a-Manger