



Case Study – Energy Management

Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa Cork saves €140,000 through Good Energy Management

Hotel Description

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, located in Little Island, Co Cork, is a four star property with 129 luxury rooms and suites. Facilities include spa and fitness centre, restaurant, bar and nine meeting rooms and a ballroom.

Project Development

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa in Cork improved their energy management through implementing better building and equipment control, better heat control, turn-off policies and, of course, through better people management.

Overall Strategy: Good Housekeeping and Good Energy Management

Financial Investments: NONE

Actions taken: Andrew Mullen, Chief Engineer/Energy Manager at the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Cork, outlines their energy management programme:

We began by identifying energy usage around the hotel through regular monitoring and recording of energy consumption. We also identified the controls for all of our major energy using equipment and using these in a more efficient manner helped to reduce our energy consumption considerably. Where practical we removed one lamp from twin fittings in our back of house areas and replaced 50 watt halogens with 35 watt or 20 watt lamps as appropriate.

We reduced operating temperatures and times for our heating system in many areas without affecting guest comfort through optimization of settings on our Building Management system. With careful planning during low occupancy periods we managed to close off a whole section of a hotel reducing heat and light needs. We managed to optimize our CHP unit which provided us with more electricity and hot water while reducing the gas consumption.

People management: All full time Radisson staff are trained at induction in *Responsible Business*, which is the environmental programme in operation in all Rezidor hotels worldwide. We reinforced this training with increased staff awareness and energy management promotion throughout the Hotel. "I pointed out that we use more energy in a day than your average house would in a year, and that brought it home..." says Andrew Mullen. At all times staff were encouraged to switch off unnecessary equipment and were reminded that every little helped. Staff were also aware that energy consumption was monitored very closely and that unnecessary equipment being left on would be recorded and brought to the attention of management. This helped to maintain a focus on energy management. This combination of training and monitoring has worked well for us and we now have a good culture of energy awareness throughout the hotel.

Challenges: The main challenges encountered were that much of the energy bills are fixed cost so it is difficult to get it down proportionally to the declining revenues. Also the fact that there are multiple energy users means shared responsibility. "It's a very hands-on job" says Andrew Mullen.



Results Achieved

As a result of the better energy management electricity consumption was cut by 18% and gas consumption by 12% leading to €140,000 savings over two year period. There is a very good culture in the hotel now and everybody understands importance of keeping the energy consumption and energy costs down.

Hotel secured GHA Gold Standard and also received GHA Most Improved Energy Management Award in 2008.