

How to become an Efficient Energy Manager

Are you an aspiring Energy Manager? Understand what **Energy Management** is, what makes it important in the organizational life-cycle and what are the steps involved in becoming a responsible energy manager.

Ever wondered how is it that the energy in your organization feels drained out and everything seems dull? You can prevent the same by mastering **Energy Management**.



Source: Flickr

What is **Energy Management**?

It cannot be defined by one specific word since it has multiple meanings. In this context, we will define **Energy Management** as the strict measures one must undertake to save energy in business houses, PSU, Governmental Organizations, and households.

In official terms, an energy manager's task is to facilitate the process through which he monitors, controls, conserves and guides the energy in a premise or in an organization. Other agents also use it. For example, it is undertaken by energy suppliers to make sure that their energy sources generate the right amount of energy, or is undertaken by managers for managing their own energy. It is also used by pilots in aviation.

What are the basic tasks of an Energy Manager?

- Firstly, you need to measure and collect data
- Understand methods to save energy and estimate how much could you be saving from each method. For this, you also need to measure the daily wastage of energy and then analyse the various replacement equipment which can be used to save this loss.
- Take appropriate steps to implement these methods
- Monitor your progress after implementation and adjust the same to increase efficiency.
- Repeat the same to make it a sustainable process

Note: Even though it has been stereotypically tagged as a process undertaken in business houses and huge buildings, it is an action that is being undertaken by households too. Energy is a precious

resource and hence, can affect the budget of the household if not managed judiciously. Some proper measures need to be taken to manage energy at micro levels. It is very similar to that of businesses, just on a smaller scale.

How does **Energy Management** Method work?

Step 1: Data collection and measurement

Better and accurate data and facilitation of unbiased and relevant analyses. This also helps in getting conclusions that are detailed and unambiguous.

In order to collect data, you can either read from the meters every day or note them down, or even use a technique that is hassle free and less taxing. It requires you to install interval-metering systems. These systems measure data for you and record the amount of energy consumed at periodic intervals. This allows you to see a pattern of both, energy use and waste.

Step 2: Finding opportunities for energy conservation

Just finding data won't help. You need to use the data to find opportunities to make changes.

Usually, these methods do not need huge capital investment. They can include motivating employees to turn off devices when not in use or installing devices that minimize energy wastage

Identifying trends can help saving energy. Seeing when the wastage is taking place can help you figure out the equipment or departments that are causing such wastage or even understand the timing of it. That will help you take appropriate steps to prevent such wastage.

In case an organization is willing to invest capital in order to reap long-term benefits, they can look into insulation, LED lights etc. to conserve energy.

Step 3: Acting on the opportunities

You might be required to motivate those individuals who are causing the energy to drain out. This is not only sustainable but it also fosters a sense of sustainable development and energy conservation within the organization. It can have a spill over effect and can lead to macroeconomic benefits.

You can be required to upgrade systems or insulation. This can be seen as an investment rather than a cost.

Step 4: Follow-ups

Those steps that were taken via influencing the behaviour of employees might need constant monitoring and incentivization.

Check whether the installed machinery is doing well, and is helping you achieve your target.

Let the internal agents of the organization know that your steps have helped the organization in becoming better off by saving cost and energy.

See whether up-gradations of your already implemented actions are available. Do not become stagnant. Try and be as dynamic as possible when it comes to energy conservation.

Step 5: Repeat

Energy management is not something that happens by one in the business's life. It is a constant and which only ends when the business winds up.

Technology can become obsolete and employees can forget the steps necessary to conserve energy. Hence it is a continuous process.

Why spend time on **Energy Management**?

At the global level, **energy management** can affect energy costs, prices, targeted emissions, and laws, positively. In other words, it can lessen the damage that we are doing to the planet and reduce our over-dependence on non-renewable energy sources. In an organization, **energy management** helps to:

- Save cost
- Reduce CO2 emissions, that in turn prevents the damage to the environment
- Reduce problems and risks of shortages

Hence, **energy management** is not an incidental occurrence. It is a part of the company/organization activity that should be taken up diligently by an Energy Manager, so as to create a sustainable environment and foster a sense of social responsibility.