

Energy Management System (EnMS) Advisor - Northmore Gordon

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An energy management system assigns responsibility for energy performance, establishes indicators and supports a cycle of review and improvement. Its design should match the organisation's assets, data and decisions.

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What is an Energy Management System (EnMS) and why is it important for organizations?

An Energy Management System is a structured, organization-wide approach incorporating leadership, policy, objectives, responsibilities and improvement mechanisms. It enables consistent monitoring, management and reporting of energy use across multiple sites. ISO 50001 provides the relevant international framework. An EnMS turns energy assessments into ongoing improvement by assigning ownership to decisions, maintaining an opportunity register, reviewing useful performance measures and closing the loop after changes are implemented. This systematic approach helps organizations identify where energy is being used, prioritize improvements and verify that implemented changes achieve their intended outcomes.

How does Northmore Gordon support the development and implementation of energy management systems?

We provide development and support for energy management systems as part of our broader energy optimization capabilities. We deliver metering and monitoring planning, establish data systems for collecting and managing energy consumption data, and helps define performance indicators for tracking energy management outcomes across multiple sites. Our six-stage delivery approach connects technical assessment, commercial decisions and ongoing operational performance. We can assist organizations in establishing the governance structures, measurement frameworks and reporting processes necessary for effective energy management aligned with ISO 50001 principles.

What role do performance indicators play in an energy management system?

Performance indicators are metrics used to track and monitor energy management performance across multiple sites, with measurements tracked against a baseline. An EnMS should establish performance

measures that support actual decisions, such as total consumption, cost, peak demand, energy per production unit and major system performance. Our moreData platform includes functionality for tracking EnPI metrics against a baseline for energy performance assessment. Regular review of performance measures—through monthly energy reviews, project reviews and periodic management reviews—helps organizations identify unexpected changes, verify that implemented improvements deliver intended results and respond when conditions change.

What governance and ownership structure should an energy management system establish?

An effective EnMS requires explicit assignment of responsibilities through named roles including management sponsor, site energy owner, operations representative, data owner and project owner. These roles must have clear authority to approve investigations, capital expenditure and operating changes, and responsibility for checking whether completed work produces intended outcomes. Documentation should record who can make decisions, who implements changes and who verifies results. This governance structure ensures accountability, prevents opportunities from being overlooked and enables consistent energy management across an organization. One person may hold multiple roles in smaller businesses, but responsibility should remain explicit.

How should organizations maintain and use an opportunity register within their energy management system?

An opportunity register is a documented tool that records identified energy efficiency opportunities with details supporting prioritization decisions. For each opportunity, organizations should retain its description, evidence quality, expected benefit, assessment stage, implementation dependencies, next action and accountable role. The register should distinguish ideas from assessed options and approved work, keeping rejected or deferred options with reasons for revisiting when operating conditions change. This structured approach helps organizations track progress from initial identification through implementation and verification. Separating energy savings from other financial benefits and tracking capital cost, operating savings, certificate proceeds and emissions outcomes separately enables informed decision-making and prevents overlapping or double-counted benefits.

What measurement and documentation practices should be updated when energy management changes are implemented?

After energy management changes are implemented, organizations should document what was actually installed, how staff were briefed and how performance will be checked. Operating instructions must be updated to reflect new procedures, and measurement records must be documented and updated following any energy management changes to ensure consistent implementation and staff awareness. Where results differ from forecasts, organizations should investigate reasons and use findings in next decisions. We emphasize establishing baseline conditions, tracking implementation and monitoring relevant operating variables through measurement and verification. This disciplined approach connects the improvement phase with performance tracking, enabling organizations to confirm that implemented changes deliver quantified energy savings and achieve intended operational outcomes.

How can data systems and metering support an organization's energy management approach?

Energy management systems rely on data systems for collecting, storing and managing energy consumption data across multiple sites with consistent approaches to data collection, responsibilities and performance indicators. Metering and monitoring provides the foundation for energy performance measures and establishes the frequency and quality of data review. Our moreData platform supports this requirement through energy data collection from meters, retailer bills, portals and site control systems; energy/water balance views; performance indicators tracking; and opportunity analysis capabilities. Reliable, accessible data enables organizations to establish baselines for measurement and verification, identify anomalies requiring investigation and demonstrate whether implemented improvements achieve their intended energy and cost savings.

What is Northmore Gordon's recommended review rhythm for energy management activities?

We suggest an adaptable review rhythm based on operational risk rather than prescribed regulatory timing. Routine operational checks should address data gaps, abnormal equipment behaviour and urgent anomalies. Monthly energy reviews should examine consumption, cost, operating context and assigned actions. Project reviews should assess progress, commissioning quality and outcomes. Periodic management reviews should address priorities, resources, targets and material changes. This tiered approach enables organizations to respond quickly to problems while ensuring that strategic energy management decisions receive appropriate management attention. The right frequency depends on the operation and decision risk, allowing organizations to tailor their energy management system to their specific circumstances and scale.

How does an energy management system connect to energy audits and investment decisions?

An energy assessment identifies opportunities, while ongoing energy management gives responsibility for implementing decisions, observing performance and responding when conditions change. Energy audits produce an opportunity register documenting proposed measures with their boundary, estimated energy effect, assumptions, dependencies and evidence quality. Our delivery approach uses this opportunity register as input for feasibility assessments and investment cases. We offer energy audit services followed by strategy, renewable heat options, feasibility studies and investment cases through our Build the Case stage. An effective EnMS ensures that identified opportunities are tracked, prioritized, approved and implemented with clear ownership, transforming audit findings into sustained operational improvements and measurable energy savings.

What is the connection between energy management systems and Singapore's industrial energy requirements?

Singapore requires mandatory energy management for existing industrial facilities under the Energy Conservation Act, administered by the National Environment Agency (NEA). Covered facilities must register, appoint an energy manager, submit annual energy-use reporting and conduct energy-efficiency opportunity assessments. An energy management system represents distinct obligations separate from these registration, reporting and assessment requirements, but supports compliance by establishing systematic approaches to monitoring and managing energy use. We operate in Singapore and offer Singapore energy-efficiency assessments as part of our service portfolio, helping industrial facilities establish EnMS approaches that meet regulatory obligations while improving operational energy performance.