



ATS Euromaster measures resource use to improve efficiency



About ATS Euromaster

ATS Euromaster is one of the largest tyre service providers in the UK and is part of the Euromaster Group, which operates throughout Europe. The company has 371 service centres across the UK and employs around 2,800 people. About 25 sites are based in Scotland.

ATS Euromaster has implemented resource efficiency measures in its 371 automotive service centres across the UK, following a pilot project initiated in its Scottish centres in 2009.

ATS Euromaster is benefiting from implementing the following resource efficiency measures:

- Developing a 'Ten Top Tips' campaign to encourage best practice at service centres;
- Continued installation of smart meters to monitor energy use accurately and in real time;
- Setting targets for resource reduction, for example, 3% reduction in electricity consumption;
- Encouraging employees to get involved, identifying best practice and suggesting ideas for improvement;
- Setting up a dedicated team to provide environmental advice to service centres;
- Setting up recycling contracts for dry waste at all service centres.

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The resource efficiency programme provided free visits to three service centres that were representative of ATS Euromaster's operations, to review resource use, waste generation and water and energy use. The visits outlined key opportunities for improving resource use, waste management and handling, and utility use, with potential savings.



Background

Zero Waste Scotland provides free confidential advice and support to all sizes of business through a combination of online resources and hands-on support. The programme provided free visits to three service centres that represented ATS Euromaster's operations, to review resource use, waste generation and water and energy use. The visits outlined key opportunities for improving resource use, waste management and handling, and utility use, with potential savings. This Case Study outlines the approach taken by the company to improve resource measurement, set targets for reduction and increase employee participation in the company's environmental initiatives.

Measurement and Benchmarking

One of the key areas highlighted by the programme was that the management and approval of utility accounts was dealt with centrally, but service centres did not know how much water and electricity was used or how much these cost. This is common practice in companies with multiple sites, but best practice is to benchmark how much is being used and compare performance over time and with other sites.

As a pilot project, 17 service centres in the central Scotland area were asked to participate in a survey of daily electricity and water use over a one week period. This was done by reading the meters before the centre opened and after it closed – the difference between the two readings showed how much had been used. Night-time and weekend consumption (when the sites were closed) was also measured.

Figure 1 Monthly water use



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Water Use

Water is used at the service centres for domestic purposes (for example for toilets, hand washing, drinks) and there is minimal use within the workshop (for example in tyre baths). The benchmark for water was 25 litres per person per day (figure taken from Envirowise publication GG707: Measuring to manage: a how-to guide). Employee numbers for each site were used to estimate the predicted daily water use for each service centre, and the data aggregated as monthly water use (m³) at each site, as shown in Fig 1.

Five sites used more water than predicted. This accounts for 50 m³/month. Reducing water use to the target level for each service centre, through water efficiency measures and ensuring all water use is appropriate, would save around 590 m³/year, worth £1,180/year (Business Stream water charges 2008/9). Any measures to encourage service centres to adopt best practice and reduce water consumption to below target levels would bring additional cost savings in the future.

Energy

Electricity is used for lighting, heating (minimal use in workshop), tools and equipment, domestic facilities (for example, kettle) and office equipment. Employee numbers are related to turnover (and energy use) and can be used to benchmark electricity across the sites. From the survey, average electricity use was 10 kWh/person/day (although some sites used only 1 kWh/person/day). Predicted daily electricity use for each service centre was aggregated as monthly electricity use (kWh), as shown in Fig 2.

Seven centres used more electricity than the benchmark. This accounts for 12,000 kWh/year. Reducing energy use to the benchmark for each site could yield a significant cost saving. Some sites also used more electricity than others at night or when closed.

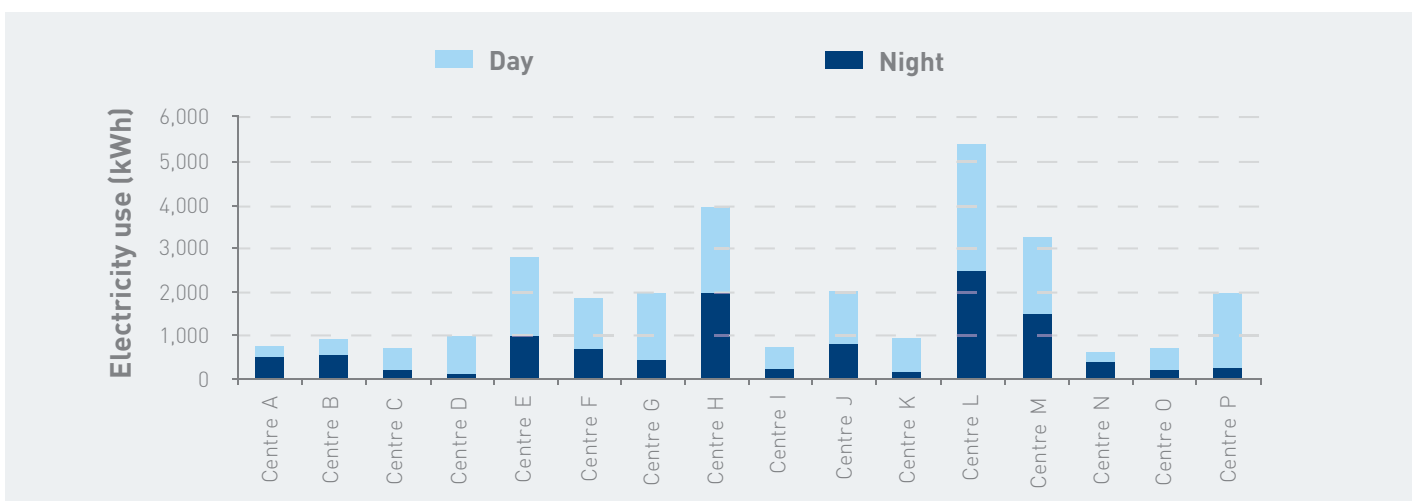
Assuming that all sites have the same basic energy needs, this prompted a company-wide 'switch off' campaign, and comparison of best and worst performers.

The Way Forward

Following the pilot project, ATS Euromaster has done a lot of work to reduce cost and environmental impact by reducing electricity consumption, and set a 3% reduction target. To help achieve this, each service centre is fitted with a smart meter, to monitor electricity use in real time, and is aware of what its targeted monthly electricity consumption should be. To help centres achieve their targets, the company is developing a 'Ten Top Tips' campaign to promote simple ways to reduce resource use. Feedback is planned on a quarterly basis, when recognition will be given to the centres that achieve the best results and progress against targets is provided, along with an update on how ATS Euromaster is progressing globally towards its target.

Following the pilot project, ATS Euromaster has done a lot of work to reduce cost and environmental impact by reducing electricity consumption, and set a 3% reduction target for consumption.

Figure 2 Monthly electricity use (day and night),



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Future Initiatives

ATS Euromaster is developing its environmental corporate strategy and has identified a variety of environmental initiatives that it will be considering in the near future. These include:

- developing a company-wide strategy for resource efficiency, with key environmental performance indicators (KEPIs) for waste, water, energy and recycling;
- continuing to assess the suitability of an environmental management system and the cost of implementing ISO14001, BS8555 and other relevant accredited standards.



“The programme advisers were knowledgeable, approachable, and provided us with the right level of resource and skill we needed to identify the potential for improvement. As a result of their support, we can clearly demonstrate to our business the ‘size of the prize’ with respect to the cost saving opportunity and environmental improvement.”

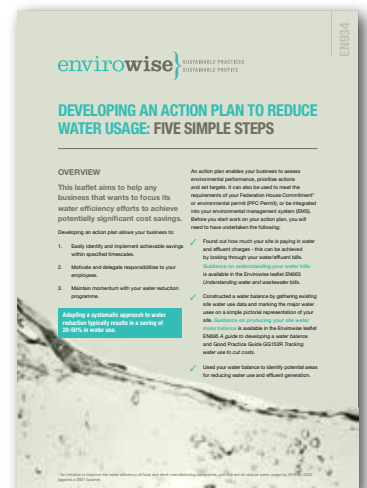
Richard Byrne,
Group Health, Safety & Environmental Manager, ATS Euromaster.
Case study prepared with assistance from Enviromentor Ltd.

Useful Publications

(GG707) Measuring to manage: a how-to guide

(EN665) Understanding water and wastewater bills

(EN934) Developing an action plan to reduce water usage: five simple steps



Visit the Zero Waste Scotland website at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk or e-mail us with any specific questions (helpline@zerowastescotland.org.uk).



Zero Waste Scotland

Suite 1b, Hillside House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling, FK7 9JQ.

E-mail: helpline@zerowastescotland.org.uk

Helpline freephone 0808 100 2040

www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

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