

Capturing smart metering benefits

UK Government is pressing ahead with nationwide rollout of smart meter infrastructure

THE UK IS RAPIDLY ACQUIRING smart meter infrastructure. Very large consumption sites have had smart meters (strictly speaking "advanced metering" but functionally very similar to smart) since 1994. In addition, existing legislation requires all large non-domestic sites to have advanced metering installed by 2014. We'd estimate this to represent over 160,000 electricity meters and 40,000 gas meters. With large non-domestic sites addressed, the Government is proposing new legislation that will drive the remainder of the country to smart meters by 2020, including a further 2.1 million non-domestic electricity, and 1.6 million non-domestic gas meters. Their objective? To drive down energy consumption and unlock billions of pounds of energy savings and reduced carbon emissions.

Stark has been using smart technologies for hundreds of organisations for nearly ten years. We are always learning, but we think we know a thing or two about turning what can be a complex meter installation programme into tangible energy savings.

Smart meters are only the first step

Smart meters deliver benefits from day one. The quick win is accurate billing – you should be receiving no more estimates. It simply requires the meter to be dialled once a month. In fact, we usually dial the meter once a night, collect the half hourly data stored on the meter and report it online from 07:00 the next morning. Some of our customers have been enjoying this for ten years - so it's hard to claim it's a big innovation.

The big savings come from eliminating energy waste in your buildings and thereby reducing carbon emissions. So, how do you capture this?

Change Behaviour. Cut Costs.

Intuitively, we all know that feeding back information to our building users about energy usage is essential if we are to engage them in reducing the waste. However, effective feedback must be:

- Clear and simple to understand
- Tailored to energy users specific circumstances and KPIs
- Meaningful, by comparison to a benchmark, or a portfolio of sites for example
- Real time, regular, and have an extended presence

To this end, you may be thinking about installing a slick 50in plasma screen in the lobby, displaying an energy dashboard. We like them too. But how well do they really engage your building users? They can tick all the boxes but their weakness is that they are a transient means

to reach your target audience; out of sight, out of mind.

Helpfully, smart meters really are quite smart. We can now communicate with them in near real time. And rather than keeping the lobby informed, we bring energy monitoring to everyone's PC, and immediately update building users on their energy performance.

In addition, research by the Centre for Sustainable Energy shows that many building users find interpreting what they see on a typical energy display a challenge. The terms can be opaque (kWh etc), and difficult to connect to users' energy behaviour.

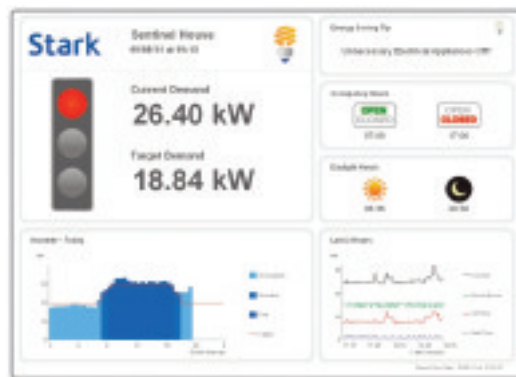
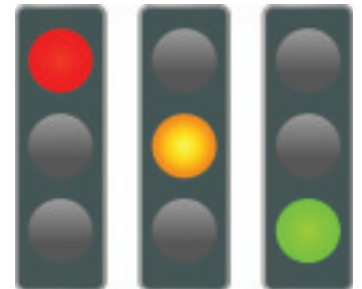
Introducing the Stark traffic light. A great way for your organisation to embrace saving energy.

We're focusing on ways to bring simple, accurate and immediate prompts to the people who matter, and bring down energy costs. We think our latest gadget does exactly that.

The traffic light sits on everyone's desktop and helps building users take control of their energy usage. It gives clear and immediate feedback, encouraging each individual to change the way they use energy, permanently. So, whenever the traffic light turns red, your people will know they need to switch something off.

For anyone who wants to know what is driving the change of status, they can click on the traffic light to download a detailed up-to-the-minute report on building energy usage.

When everyone takes action to save energy like this, you're well on your way to changing behaviour, eliminating waste and cutting costs.



About Stark

Stark is at the forefront of innovation in smart energy monitoring and reporting. We leverage next generation smart meters, advanced communications and cutting edge data collection and processing techniques to give customers unrivalled insight into their energy use. We are independent of suppliers and wholly focused on helping our customers eliminate waste, cut costs and change behaviour.

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