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For those companies who recognize the need to minimize these risks, the good news is there are proven ways to manage them. In this post I''ll describe how an Energy and Power Management System (EPMS) is designed to help you optimize the cost, reliability and quality of your electrical power which ultimately lowers your business risk exposure.

Only an EPMS can tackle the specialized nature of electricity. An EPMS is comprised of smart power quality monitoring devices and power management software designed specifically for optimizing energy usage and cost, and continually monitors the reliability of the electrical distribution system and the quality of power it delivers to its equipment and critical loads.

To capture and deliver the data needed to ensure optimal performance of your electrical distribution system and the assets connected to it, metering devices must be installed in key locations throughout the entire electrical distribution system.

Choosing the right metering device for each metering point is important. And there are many options in all shapes and sizes. In addition to the multitude of electrical power meters available on the market, most circuit breaker manufacturers also offer embedded metering options as well. Choose wisely, because once you select your devices, you will be depending on them for many years to come. It is often far too disruptive and costly to change out power metering equipment early in its life span.

As you can see, an EPMS does much more than collect data from power metering devices. It uses a rich set of visualization, analysis and reporting tools to provide actionable information for a variety of energy and power management applications. It is this actionable information within the context of these applications that allows companies to minimize their business risk associated with power reliability and the cost of energy.

Besides energy cost savings, an EPMS also helps improve operational efficiency by automating and centralizing many power management functions from meter readings and equipment diagnosis to power source management and power restoration. For example, during regular planned maintenance activities, it is common to de-energize specific circuits, so staff or contractors can work safely on equipment. And when the power needs to be restored, it is the EPMS that is used to ensure that the circuits and the associated equipment is brought online in a safe and efficient manner.

To learn more about this subject, refer to our white paper "Mitigating risk using power management systems". Also make sure to discover Schneider Electric EcoStruxure(TM) Power Monitoring Expert software, one of the foundations of our power management solution.

While sustainability is increasingly important, so is protecting profits and keeping operations running 24/7.

Thankfully, there is a cost-effective solution that can help with these three challenges, supporting everyone from the top floor to shop floor. In this post, we will show how next-generation power monitoring delivers the data your organization needs to meet your sustainability commitments while realizing a fast payback from cutting energy costs and improving business resilience.

Corporate sustainability covers many different initiatives, but let"s focus on energy-related opportunities. For example, you may want to reduce energy-related emissions to meet local regulations. This can include taking advantage of renewable energy sources, like adding solar panels and energy storage to your buildings, procuring green energy from the grid, or responding to carbon pricing. Another good step is to maximize electrification by converting any fossil-fuel-based heating to electric.

All these steps will be good for the environment, your brand image, and - especially in the case of renewables - for your bottom line. But to fully leverage each initiative, you must accurately measure how and when you are consuming each energy source throughout your facilities. A digitized electrical distribution system using networked power monitoring is the foundation for getting the data you need. You may already have networked digital power meters in place, and simply need to add a few missing pieces.

Energy data from meters need to be aggregated by an energy and power management system (EPMS), with software that converts that data into actionable insights. Your energy or sustainability manager needs a dashboard with key performance indicators that profile how each department or process is using energy. By normalizing for parameters like weather or work schedules, then benchmarking against other facilities or comparing day-to-day or year-to-year, sources of energy inefficiency or waste will quickly be revealed so you can address them.

An EPMS will also help you differentiate the energy you are consuming from the grid versus onsite renewables, onsite storage, and procured green energy. This perspective will help you maximize the use of renewables, or sell onsite energy back to the grid, only when it is most economic to do so. The best EPMS will also push data to analytics applications that calculate equivalent emissions, helping you track sustainability progress, meet regulatory requirements, and support ESG reporting.

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