

Power savings simple

COTTON growers are saving big dollars in power costs through a new electricity management system, developed by energy management firm, Utilacor.

By using its revolutionary kWatch system, Utilacor is able to detect faults and unnecessary charges within businesses and also draws on its extensive industry knowledge to assist with electricity contracts.

Power remains a major expense for cotton growers, but due to the complexity of the electricity market and lack of industry knowledge, growers often consider it to be too difficult to review costs.

Tandou Ltd's energy problems are now over, according to company secretary Bernie Woollard, after Utilacor began to manage the electricity usage at its cotton site.

"Utilacor is currently looking at our electricity records and usage at the pumping irrigation area of our cotton site, which are our two main areas of electricity usage. We are expecting good results from this research because of the positive results Utilacor has already achieved firstly with our Millewa vineyard, and more substantially at Tandou wines," Mr Woollard said.

"Utilacor is not only researching inconsistencies and billing errors at our cotton site, but is also sourcing our purchase of electricity. We are confident we will be able to secure an electricity contract at better rates," he said.

Utilacor began working with Tandou Pty after researching electricity use at its winery site two years ago.

"Utilacor initially found a \$20,000 saving on our electricity bills at our winery site, which I believe was an overcharge picked up by their kWatch system. Even if we did have the resources to manage our electricity usage, we simply don't have the expertise in the electricity industry to manage the accounts and detect such inconsistencies," Mr Woollard said.

Australia's largest almond producer, Select Harvests, has also saved substantially by using the energy management resource.

"We decided to use a resource that would manage all our electricity supply points together, as well as our accounts. We used Utilacor because they are so experienced in electricity management and we can already see the savings," Select Harvests Almond Division general manager Wayne Turner said.

"We initially saved money when Utilacor negotiated our power contract by using its resources to obtain several quotes. We are also experiencing continued savings through Utilacor's kWatch system, which provides protection from overcharging.

"Because Utilacor is a power industry specialist, it gives us the advantage of who to go to and what not to agree to," he said.

A Victorian winery has also saved big dollars in power costs. Wingara Wines Deakin Estate, based in northern Victoria, found its electricity management too difficult to assess, until winery manager Brian Falkenberg sourced improvement opportunities through Utilacor.

"When we requested Utilacor negotiate a new three-year electricity contract for us, several major flaws were found in the winery's electrical supply arrangements. We found our initial contract was costing us dearly, so we welcomed the significant reduction," Mr Falkenberg said.

The energy market remains a very complex environment, making it almost impossible for businesses to manage their electricity accounts and optimise their operations, Utilacor business development manager Graeme Pollock said.

"Due to the energy market's indifference to the concerns of unsuspecting customers, we find there is an enormous demand for the type of service that Utilacor provides," he said.

● For more information on Utilacor, visit www.utilacor.com.au