

Energy management program saves businesses thousands of dollars

Food manufacturers are saving big dollars on power costs after discovering a new energy management system which reveals hidden costs in electricity bills.

Developed by Victorian energy management firm, Utilacor, the revolutionary kWatch energy management system is able to seek out undetectable faults and unnecessary power charges within businesses.

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

Utilacor's managing director, Matthew van der Linden, said he developed the kWatch system after finding the complexity of different billing systems meant there was no way for the average manufacturer to be certain that the electricity account they were asked to pay was correct.

"It is amazing to think that even now, there are businesses that routinely pay their energy accounts and yet do not know for certain that the account is correct," he said.

Australia's largest almond producer, Select Harvests has 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 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 have also experienced continued savings through Utilacor's kWatch system which provides protection from overcharging.

"If Utilacor had not approached us, we probably would have self-managed

our electricity. Because Utilacor are power industry specialists, it gives us the advantage of who to go to and what not to agree to," he said.

SDS beverages, food and wine financial controller, Andrew Edmunds, said Utilacor has also saved its carrot concentration plant, in Mildura, Victoria, from unnecessary power costs, where electricity costs are around \$570,000 per year.



Select Harvest . . . cheaper to process its almond crop.