

Thought leadership in Facilities Management

Energy services - an opportunity for FMs

The focus within facilities management (FM) has shifted in recent years. Not only has FM grown more professional, its remit has stretched to new areas of responsibility. The push for sustainability is one such area. With industry accounting for around 20% of the UK's carbon emissions, FM can play a huge role as we move to a low carbon economy.

A small but growing number of outsource FM providers have recognised the opportunities for longer term client relationships and improved margins offered by moving into energy services, and in particular retrofitting energy efficiency solutions. A key element of delivering these services successfully is the ability to communicate to the occupier the value of the energy savings achieved.

For nearly a decade Energy Services Companies in North America have been using the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP) as a way of proving the success of their energy efficiency initiatives to their clients. For the last two years, EEVS has been working with the FM industry in the UK to raise awareness of the role of M&V in delivering energy services successfully, and helping FMs to integrate hard-learned lessons from elsewhere in the world into their offerings.

Round table

In March 2011, EEVS hosted a round table for built environment professionals from FM and related industries, to discuss Embedding M&V in the UK. Attendees from the Carbon Trust, ESTA, the British Institute of Facilities Management, and EVO (Efficiency Valuation Organization – the NGO that manages the IPMVP standard worldwide) as well as leading outsource FM companies joined EEVS MD Alex Rathmell in discussing how transparently proving performance can help Facilities Managers to realise their potential in delivering savings in the UK's buildings.

EVO Chair John Cowan provided a first hand account of how use of structured M&V in the US and Canada provides crucial protection for both clients and energy services providers, offering a route for resolving disputes, or avoiding them altogether. The group also



discussed whether the UK needed its own standard for M&V, and the importance of giving FMs a tool to hold technology suppliers to account for the savings they promise.

EEVS continues to host round table discussions on the relevance of M&V to FM professionals and other industries.

Find out more at: www.eevs.co.uk