

business stream

A SCOTTISH WATER COMPANY



case studies

TESCO

Business Stream helps Tesco become first UK retailer to install smart meters

Business Stream has enabled the UK's largest supermarket chain to radically overhaul its approach to water management and introduce new technology which will play an important role in improving the company's water efficiency.

Tesco is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and as part of its 'every little helps' campaign, Tesco have conducted a review of their water usage.

In 2006, with the assistance of Business Stream, Tesco became the first major retailer in the UK to roll out smart metering.

Business Requirements

With over 250,000 employees and 1,779 stores, Tesco is the biggest private sector employer in the UK and the company has a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. Recognising that climate change will have an effect on the availability of water resources in the future, Tesco is committed to reducing water consumption in all of its stores and finding economically sound ways of achieving this.

By 2006, Tesco had already achieved its target of reducing its water consumption by 7.6% per m² of sales space. The company is now focusing on cutting its water consumption in the UK by 15%.

In 2006, Tesco approached Business Stream to conduct a review of all of its Scottish-based stores. Tesco hoped to identify ways in which it could reduce and effectively manage water consumption and over the course of the past year it has been working closely with Business Stream on numerous aspects of its water usage.

Solution

Business Stream introduced Tesco to smart meters and suggested that the company had one installed in each of its Scottish-based stores.

Smart meters have been available for a number of years but they are only now becoming an affordable option for businesses. By attaching an electronic logger to a conventional water meter, it is possible to record meter readings and flow rates remotely without the need for anyone to visit the site.

There are a number of other advantages, including the ability to control and monitor water usage in real-time. The electronic loggers gather and record water readings every 15 minutes allowing the customer to identify by site, when and where water is being used. The customer can also quantify the amount of water that has been used and then identify any potential leaks.



Business Benefits

Since the introduction of the smart meters, Tesco has been able to gain a better understanding of its water usage, which in turn has allowed the company to continue to reduce its carbon footprint.

The accurate readings provided by the smart meters mean the number of estimated bills is reduced and over time the aim is to completely remove estimated reads from the billing process.

There has also been a reduction in the number of site visits by meter readers and technicians and the ability to detect leaks has helped Tesco to save time and money when it comes to repairs.

James Summerbell
Senior Buying Manager of Tesco

“The introduction of Smart Metering technology has been a resounding success. It has played a significant role in helping us to meet our water consumption targets as well as improving the efficiency of our stores.

“We fully intend to continue working with Business Stream and roll-out this technology to all of our stores throughout the UK.”

Contact information

To find out how we can make water work for you, please get in touch

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