

Equine Industry



Energy Use – Equine Industry

The Irish Equine Industry's success is renowned the world over. Equine facilities operate all year round. Outside of walkers, equine solariums, rug driers and other specialist equipment, the largest energy consumption is lighting and hot water heating. The main equine facilities are made up of the following groups:

- Racing Yards
- Stud farms
- Riding Centers
- Equine therapists
- Equine tourism

It makes no difference if the horses in question are Black Type Group 1 winners or 15 year old geldings in a trekking farm – the cost of energy is the same.

Energy Costs – Equine Industry

The equine industry's operating costs are increasing through increased energy costs. Equine facilities operate 365 days a year. Many facilities tend to have older less efficient equipment.

Contrary to belief oil prices do not affect electricity prices in Ireland. Ireland's electricity comes from a variety of generation plants consisting of coal, oil, gas, peat and, in recent years, an increasing amount of renewable generation mostly in the form of wind power. Gas is the key fuel in Ireland's power generation, with in the region of 60% of our electricity currently generated from imported natural gas.

Gas prices fluctuate throughout the year. Like any commodity it goes up in price and it drops in price but one thing is certain – year on year the cost to business users increases.

Energy cost fluctuations can play havoc on a facilities budgets. Longer colder winters can be difficult enough to budget for but couple that with fluctuating prices and the challenge results in 'best guesstimates'. Energy costs directly affect profit margin and unless properly controlled will result in profit erosion.

How to make savings with Digren Energy

There are a number of ways to substantially reduce energy costs. These vary from no cost, to low cost, to high capital expenditure projects. However, The best way to maximise savings is to implement an energy plan specific to your facility and budget. A significant barrier to using energy efficiently is a lack of awareness.

At Digren Energy we encourage the development of a plan that follows and includes the following steps to energy efficiency success:

1. Procurement

Obtaining and fixing the best pricing for your electricity and gas is a key factor. A fixed price contract removes the worry of fluctuating gas prices when preparing budgets. A key part of procurement is analysing all the costs of your bill over the past 12 months. Digren energy provide tariff and consumption analysis to provide the maximum savings. The unit rate cost alone is not enough as this is only one component of the bill. The actual unit price is derived from your total bill divided by your consumption – this figure is always considerably higher than the unit rate. We provide full detailed proposals outlining all costs.

2. Energy Audit

Digren Energy provide a sensible approach energy audit. We will request copies of your business's gas, electricity, water and heating oil to determine the energy usage patterns. We then carry out a full survey of the nursing home to identify energy use and wastage. The audit becomes the blue print for your energy plan.

3. Energy Awareness

Digren Energy are committed to helping you get a complete understanding of your energy requirements and to help you develop the tools to create awareness among your staff and the nursing home residents.

4. Energy Plan

Digren Energy can work directly with you to prepare your energy plan and to provide you with the tools to enable your staff to implement the plan and to monitor the savings achieved on an ongoing basis.

5. LED Lighting Projects

Digren Energy work with a number of LED manufacturers to offer the widest choice of outdoor and indoor LED lighting. Our lighting projects are offered after a lighting audit and replacement design plan is carried out. All our lighting projects include smart control systems which include energy monitoring and remote access controls. LED solutions can reduce lighting energy consumption by between 50% – 75%.

The best way to maximise savings is to implement an energy plan

