NOwatt

Customer Case Study

Twickenham Stadium: The world's largest dedicated rugby stadium.
Credit: RFU/Leo Wilkinson

The Customer: Rugby Football Union

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for grassroots and elite rugby in England. Twickenham Stadium, the "Home of England Rugby", is the world's largest dedicated rugby stadium, with capacity for 82,000 spectators. It hosts numerous domestic and international rugby matches and is also a popular venue for music concerts. The stadium's south stand was recently redeveloped to include a luxurious 4* Marriott hotel, extensive conference and event facilities, a Virgin health club and Rugby Store.

The Partner

TEST Ltd. specializes in energy reduction strategies. Grant Davison, Managing Director of TEST explains: "We guide customers through a step by step process of assessment, development, implementation and monitoring to deliver and sustain the best possible reductions in energy costs and usage."

The Challenge

The RFU operates a 12 year strategic plan covering all areas of its business operations. An important element of this plan is its Carbon Reduction Commitment. Neil Theuma, Head of Technical Facilities at Twickenham Stadium, explains: "We are making a commitment to be as energy efficient as possible. To do this we need to know the 'before' picture, then make changes based on our strategy before checking the 'after' picture."

But that's not all. The RFU takes this energy reduction initiative very seriously and wanted to also proactively help its tenants – owners of the conference and events facilities at Twickenham – to improve the efficiency of their operations.

Last but not least, the RFU needed a way to track and charge back specific energy consumption costs to its tenants.

"NoWatt allows us to monitor our base level energy usage and therefore to achieve continuous improvement."

Neil Theuma
Head of Technical Facilities
Rugby Football Union

The NoWatt Solution

The RFU has appointed TEST Ltd. as its sole energy reduction specialists. To meet the RFU's goals for energy reduction strategies, TEST needed detailed energy consumption data for Twickenham stadium. They decided to partner with NoWatt to achieve this.

The RFU initially installed NoWatt in one area of Twickenham before rolling it out on a broader scale around the stadium. The staged NoWatt implementation enabled TEST to capture and analyse NoWatt data before recommending strategies for the RFU to reduce its energy consumption.

Asked about the NoWatt installation, Theuma replied: "It was done without any disruption. NoWatt's engineers worked in the 'back of house' area, and didn't disrupt or affect our operations at all."

The Results

Twickenham covers a huge site and Theuma was keen that his team knows exactly what equipment is switched on at any time, particularly at night. With NoWatt he now has this information down to the location, minute and appliance. The NoWatt solution enables TEST and the RFU to check that equipment is turned off when not in use and that appliances are running as efficiently as possible.

Neil Theuma is very pleased with the results achieved so far: “The NoWatt system is ideal for identifying the effect of changes. For instance, you can turn off equipment and see the difference literally a minute later. It’s a real time live picture of what’s happening.”

Critically, NoWatt also shows the impact of having 82,000 people at the stadium on a big match day. This is “eye-opening” according to Theuma, and he is now in a position to make changes to improve efficiency and drive down energy spend. Using the NoWatt solution, TEST can propose workable energy reduction strategies to the RFU, then track the changes with a before and after picture in terms of energy usage, cost savings and carbon footprint - all based on tangible data.

Theuma is enthusiastic about the NoWatt solution: “Since we first started using NoWatt there have been upgrades to the software, making it ever more visual and user-friendly. We use it for electricity right now, but are looking to have NoWatt monitor our gas and water too. It is very adaptable to meet our needs.”

BENEFITS

Use NoWatt data to support Carbon Reduction Commitment initiatives.

Allocate energy costs to different tenants on one site.

See the ‘match day’ impact on energy consumption at a large stadium.

The Benefits

Not surprisingly, the RFU has established clear energy reduction targets. Says Theuma: “We’re aiming for at least a 20 percent reduction in our energy usage with the NoWatt system in place.”

But that’s not all. The RFU is far-sighted when it comes to energy reduction and sees the advantages of NoWatt over the long-term.

Theuma explains: “NoWatt allows us to monitor our base level energy usage and therefore to achieve continuous improvement. We will eventually get to the point where we are operating as efficiently as possible and at that point we must then ensure we monitor closely and maintain this level. We certainly don’t want to fall back into old habits.”

Asked if he’d recommend NoWatt, Theuma said: “Yes, most definitely. We are continuing to roll out NoWatt around the stadium with the ultimate aim of covering the whole facility.”

For the RFU it seems that NoWatt and TEST is the perfect match.

Twickenham’s new South Stand development on match day.
Credit: RFU/Leo Wilkinson

NoWatt Ltd.
+44 161 408 5299
sales@nowatt.com

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