

Barriers for Energy Efficiency

Title:

Post audit reviews in energy audit services

Category:

Implementation Assistance

Summary:

In a common package of the energy audit services, the contract ends with the submission /final presentation of the report. After the submission of the report, it is left to the plant to implement the measures.

In actual practice when the plant personnel want to implement, often any minute deviation from the change suggested, results in the related proposal not being taken up for implementation. The plant personnel are not confident enough to predict whether the same measure would still be applicable.

Back ground:

Implementation planning can actually start during any phases of the plant energy study as energy savings opportunities are identified and their development begun. Many of the non-capital energy savings can actually be initiated prior to submitting of the report. However, substantial interrelationships and the extent or effect of these interrelationships is not immediately apparent.

Since the audit services ends up with the submission of the report, no follow-up or implementation assistance is extended to the customers.

A recent post audit review survey of more than 20 detailed energy audits indicated that more than 60% of the measures were implemented without any difficulty. The implemented measures requires a post audit review with regard to :

- Extent of progress achieved in implementation of recommendation.
- Impact on the energy bill.
- Actual saving potential and techno-economics.
- Increase in the awareness of energy conservation in the plant.
- Other benefits achieved (apart from the energy savings) such as improvement in productivity, working conditions, flexibility in operation, control operations, etc.
- Reliability of the energy saving retrofits incorporated.
- Time required for implementation of the measures.

- Improvement required in the report presentation.
- Precautions / metering and monitoring efforts should be initiated (if metering is already existing whether it s suitable)
- Assessment of estimated savings achieved or if partially achieved, assessment of reasons

The survey also indicated that about 20% of the measures suggested in the report were either suspended / not considered due to various reasons (such as change in process parameters, increased capacity, sizing & sourcing, operational problems, etc).

These measures require reevaluation by energy audit expert in the following areas

- Reasons and problems associated non-implementation of the proposals and methods to over come these
- Measures implemented but failed
- Measured not considered for implementation.

Lesson learnt:

Inclusion of post audit reviews in the energy audit services will increase the energy saving potential. This will help the consultant to become more practical and increases the business potential.