

Name: Mr. G. Subramanyam
Email: g_subramanyam@hotmail.com

Energy Auditor Performance: Do We Need to Check It ?

Is it necessary and helpful to establish a quality control system for energy audit reports?

Yes, it is very vital and necessary to establish a quality control and review system of energy audit reports submitted by the accredited energy Audit firms.

If so, why is it necessary?

In the past many state Governments such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat have instituted mandatory energy audits.

This has encouraged mushrooming of Energy Auditors and has become a farce. Some people have started offering consultancy through phone (i.e. "phone energy audit" – one more form of untraditional energy audit), changing the cover page of the other reports, just to meet the mandatory requirements.

The trend should not lead to a familiar situation where submission of the Energy Audit reports becomes more important, than the contents itself and its utility. The whole exercise threatens to becoming a murky ritual.

The Industry usually goes for the Energy Auditor / consultant whose quotation is the least expensive. We have even seen energy audits being quoted for a mere Rs. 5.000/-

This should not happen again with the BEE mandatory Energy Audits.

Without proper monitoring and quality control, the energy audit reports get plied up with BEE / state level nodal agency and serves only to gather dust.

It is rightly said that " an Energy Audit which is done poorly, or which cannot be implemented is useless and a waste of resources".

Practically, how might a quality control system be implemented?

1. For ensuring quality control of energy Audit reports, a committee with a panel of experts should be formed to assess and review the reports.
2. The committee should, at regular intervals try to find out whether the recommendations made by accredited Energy Audit firm, are implemented. If so, whether the end results have been achieved and to what degree.
3. The committee should be allowed to recommend to BEE to dis-accreditation of any of the Accredited Energy Auditors, in case of non – professional performance and un-ethical practices.

4. To maintain uniformity in report preparation a standard sector-wise format would need to be circulated, to improve utility of the audit.
5. The Energy Audit reports can be circulated on random basis for peer review to other Energy Audit firms. (But the reports should not go to wrong hands).
6. Minimum Energy Audit fee can be prescribed based on the size of the Industry. (Since it is very difficult, some methodology can be brought out based on consultancy days)
7. Since the designated consumer is the best judge in identifying the utility of the report, the feed back (customer satisfaction format) can be obtained from the designated consumer.
8. State nodal agencies should be strengthened to do the mammoth task of monitoring and evaluation of the energy audit reports. At present most of these state level nodal agencies are ill equipped for doing this job.
9. Institution of “ Best Energy Auditor of the Year award” for encouraging Audit firms.
10. To ensure base level satisfaction in audits it is recommended to encourage growth of agencies whose profession it would be to provide high class instrumentation services (Instrument bank) at cost.