



More renewables, fewer fossil fuels: energy consumption in 2018 falls



Germany used less primary energy in 2018 than in the preceding year: The decline of 5% can be partially attributed to lower levels of coal consumption. [Find out more](#)

What exactly is an ‘energy management system’?

Energy management is not as complicated as it sounds. It is actually very similar to what a football coach does. Read on to learn more.



This is what it's all about: by using an energy management system, large energy consumers can determine exactly how much energy they are using, identify ways in which they can reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and cut costs.

A football coach always wants his players to perform as well as they can. In order to achieve this, he analyses the strengths and weaknesses of each of his players, helps them improve through practice, and sometimes even takes a player off the pitch to replace him with a more effective one. In other words: the coach helps his team to be efficient and give their best performance.

This is exactly what an energy management system (EMS) does for industrial companies. Energy management systems analyse a company's current energy consumption and show companies where they can use less energy, thereby helping them to continuously improve energy efficiency and reduce their costs without compromising their performance.

In practice this means that EMS identify peaks in demand and incorrect settings, compare how much energy a consumer should be using with how much that consumer is actually using, detect disruptions early on, optimise the entire energy infrastructure and help companies meet their reporting duties for sustainability.

Customised solutions help deliver the best results

By using an energy management system, companies are making energy conservation a corporate policy. Software solutions help companies keep track at all times of how much energy they are using. Hardware is needed to provide the software solution with the relevant consumption data and to guide energy consumers towards minimising their energy consumption. Beyond that, EMS can be used to adjust a company's operational processes to make these more energy-efficient, for example in manufacturing, or by making optimal use of residual heat. Energy management systems need to take account of the specific circumstances in which a company operates – it therefore does not come as a surprise that a wide range of different energy-management products and services are available on the market.

EMS are not limited to use in industrial companies; they can also help commercial firms, municipalities, utilities and housing businesses considerably reduce both their energy consumption and their costs. By using an energy management system companies can reduce their energy consumption by as much as 30 per cent. The use of energy management systems certified under DIN EN ISO 50001 – the first international standard for energy management systems – is particularly recommended.

Germany is a global leader in the use of certified EMS, but there is room for more

Around 9,000 companies and public-sector institutions in Germany are already using an EMS certified under ISO 50001. Another 5,000 companies use other EMS. This means that Germany is the global leader on the use of certified EnMS. This means that Germany is a global leader in the use of certified EMS. However, considering the fact that there are more than 90,000 German companies with more than 50 employees, there still is a lot of potential that remains untapped. Not only in terms of reducing energy consumption, but also in terms of the climate as energy management systems can also help tackle climate change. The Federal Government is therefore providing funding for the acquisition and installation of measurement, monitoring and control technology, for sensor and energy-management software, and for training employees in the use of the software. Under the

Energy Audits for SMEs programme, small and medium-sized companies can receive funding for having an energy expert advise them on the implementation and maintenance of an energy management system.

Quote of the week



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“We welcome the election of the new IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera and are confident that he will successfully continue IRENA’s good work in stepping up the expansion of renewable energy to support the global energy transition.”

Thorsten Herdan, Director-General for Energy Policy – Heating and Efficiency at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

E-world in Essen: SINTEG funding programme presents the energy system of the future

Experts from all over Germany will come together to present model solutions for creating a digitised, sustainable energy supply at the e-world trade fair. Information and ideas are to be showcased at the SINTEG stand under the theme ‘SINTEG networks – Germany’s living laboratories analyse the energy system of the future’. Visitors can also look forward to three specialist forums at which current topics from the energy industry will be discussed. These are: ‘SINTEG flexibilises – Where do we stand with market flexibility mechanisms?’ (5 February, 10-11 am); ‘SINTEG connects – Update on the energy transition Made in Germany’ (in English, 6 February, 10 am-12 pm); ‘SINTEG shows how it’s done – experience from living laboratories for the energy transition’ (7 February, 11am-12 pm). The E-world energy & water trade fair will take place in Essen from 5 to 7 February 2019 and is regarded as a key event for the European energy industry. The SINTEG stand will be located in Hall 5, stand 530.

Recently elected: IRENA's new Director-General

Francesco La Camera from Italy has been elected Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) for the next four years. He was elected to the position on 13 January 2019 at the 9th IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi. IRENA, which is headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, acts as a global voice to promote renewable energy. It supports member countries in expanding their use of renewables by conducting research and analysis activities.

Early bird savings: Register for the International Biomass Conference & Expo in Leipzig by 20 January

The fourth International Conference on Monitoring & Process Control of Anaerobic Digestion Plants will take place in Leipzig on 26 and 27 March 2019. Anyone who registers to attend by 20 January will benefit from early bird savings. The preliminary agenda for the conference can be found on the website.

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