

CASE STUDY

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# Camfil Farr

*The First Company to achieve BSI's  
Energy Reduction Verification (ERV) Kitemark scheme*



# Flying the Kitemark for energy Saving

## Case Study: Camfil Farr

### Introduction:

Since Camfil Farr's Environmental Management System first achieved accreditation to BS EN 14001 in 2000, the Company has continued to be at the forefront of addressing the need for businesses to reduce their energy consumption and environmental impacts.

Through the continued application of careful energy management, robust monitoring and measurement of energy consumption and waste streams, Companywide involvement and a philosophy of 'practice what you preach', Camfil Farr have continued to lead by example by being the first UK manufacturing company to achieve accreditation to BS EN 16001 in July 2010, and more recently the first Company in the world to be awarded the BSI's Kitemark in Energy Reduction Verification (ERV).

### Company Background:

Camfil Farr is the world leader in air filtration and clean air solutions, with 22 production plants and Research and Development centres worldwide.

Its UK headquarters and manufacturing plant in Haslingden, Lancashire is home to over 200 employees, and has a turnover of 20 Million pounds.

As market leaders, Camfil Farr have demonstrated that air filters directly influence energy consumption within air handling units that heat, cool and clean the air of approximately 60,000 air conditioned buildings in the UK alone.

Camfil Farr differ from their competitors in their approach, producing air filters that can deliver a tangible reduction in energy consumption, and therefore carbon emissions, and have superior maintenance cycles, further reducing running costs.

One of Camfil Farr's key goals is to educate property managers and building owners to the substantial financial and quality opportunities that exist by simply replacing their existing air filters with Low Energy Air Filters.

Through life-cycle cost analysis, this often equates to a no/low capital investment with payback achieved within a matter of months.

# The steps taken to achieve the BSI Kitemark

## Recognition for change

In order to understand the challenges associated with achieving energy consumption reduction, Camfil Farr first had to understand the political, legislative, economic and environmental issues facing building owners. The Company Started by interrogating their own energy usage at their manufacturing facility in Haslingden, in order to understand the steps necessary to achieving best practice. The aim of this study was to establish an Energy Management System compliant with the latest BSI accreditation.

The Haslingden head office and manufacturing facility seemed to be the logical place to start as it is typical of many a manufacturing plants, and represents a good cross section of what energy considerations other organisations are facing.

As a manufacturing, distribution and service operation the Company had a unique opportunity to address current, and what were likely to be future energy consumption considerations placed on any business, and implement solutions early in the process. Considerations included:

- Rising and unstable energy costs.
- Increasing legislation following from European Parliament Building Directive on Energy Performance Certificates and current mandatory Air Conditioning Inspections (cooling capacity in excess of 250KW)
- Sustainability strategy for Camfil Farr group
- Carbon Reduction Commitment readiness
- Government driving consumption reduction as an infinitely less expensive option than huge investment in more energy capacity
- Socially more acceptable for our employees, suppliers and customers to learn how to reduce energy and save money.

## Researching and implementing the initial changes

In 2006, Camfil Farr commissioned the Carbon Trust to complete a report on the organisation.

Based on the findings of the report, the Company were able to identify key areas on which to initially concentrate their efforts, based on the principal of 'least effort, biggest reward'.

With a list of potential energy saving actions identified, the management team quickly actioned a number of 'quick-win' initiatives, known internally as JDI's – Just Do It's!

## Engaging the organisation

Camfil Farr recognised that in order to deliver a step change in the way the organisation considered energy consumption, success would only be achieved through engaging every member of the organisation.

Camfil Farr's energy reduction employment engagement scheme was launched, known as CEASE (Camfil Energy Awareness Saves Environment).

The initiative was launched in 2007, and through a gain share involvement that consisted of educating and listening to suggestions from their staff. Camfil Farr incentivised the process by

rewarding individuals and teams who suggested ideas and processes that would reduce energy consumption. The process began to pick up pace, and positively motivated employees began to adopt energy saving consideration and practices not only at work, but also into their home lives.

Energy saving consideration became an integral part of employee's jobs, with positive attitudes toward energy saving reaping financial benefits on a Company and personal level.

As part of the initiative, Camfil Farr hold an annual 'Sustainability Week' in which employees are encouraged to consider their working environment and practices and make suggestions that could lead to further energy savings. During their 2009 Sustainability Week, employees made 147 suggestions, of which 74 were JDI's!

## Implementing the BS EN 16001 Energy Management System

Camfil Farr had successfully maintained accreditation to BS EN 14001 for a decade, using a proven energy management system. The Company recognised that to maintain competitive advantage, and demonstrate that it had a thorough understanding of the efficiency of its own operations, as well as understanding the political, legislative, economic and environmental issues facing itself and its customers, that the next logical step was to attain BS EN 16001.

As BS EN 16001 was effectively a new standard, Camfil Farr played an active role in developing and trialling BSI's assessment and certification scheme.

Camfil had for some time effectively measured and reported on energy and utility consumption. With a culture of energy awareness already apparent throughout the business, the transition from BS EN 14001 to BS EN 16001 was relatively straightforward.

*"The implementation of an energy management system has been easier than we thought it would be," says Bill Wilkinson, Managing Director. "To date we have seen significant cost savings and a reduction in CO2 emissions with minimal capital outlay. With an existing environmental management system (ISO 14001) in place for ten years, we were able to integrate the requirements of BS EN 16001 into our operation somewhat seamlessly – measuring and monitoring energy costs is an inherent part of the Camfil culture."*

*"The new energy management system however has prompted us to adapt our existing data collection activities and identify non-conformances," continues Wilkinson. "By establishing a base line and measuring against pre-agreed factors we have been able to develop a continuous improvement culture which fits perfectly with our lean manufacturing model. Independent certification will 'rubber stamp' us as a trustworthy and truly sustainable business which hugely benefits the industry we work in. Our influence in the Greater London area alone can reduce energy consumption dramatically."*

*"Internally the management system has helped engage employees and provided a vehicle to harvest ideas as well as improve profitability. Certification will provide independent third party assurance that Camfil is a progressive, well managed and professional organisation. However, we recognise that achievement is temporary and continual improvement is what really counts."*

With BS EN 16001 certification awarded, Camfil Farr is now in a position to demonstrate to key stakeholders that the organisation continues to meet the very latest energy management best practices.

## Attaining the Energy Reduction Verification (ERV) Kitemark

Following the BS EN 16001 Energy Management System certification, Camfil Farr were audited by BSI to assess whether or not the Company was suitable, and ready, to potentially be the first Company to be awarded the ERV Kitemark.

BSI soon discovered that through the energy management system and monitoring processes that had been in place for some time at Camfil, the majority of the proof mechanisms required were already available and appropriate, existing data collection activities were simply refined.

The remainder required just a few months of reviewing specific areas like energy factors.

With everything in place, the Company undertook a Pre-Audit to identify any remaining non conformances, which if identified was followed up with a decisive corrective action plan to ensure conformity for the main audit.

Weekly action and review meetings were established to maintain momentum, creating a dynamic level of involvement and interest at all levels within the organisation.

Camfil had a real advantage, as the ERV Kitemark requires 2 full fiscal years of data to be available before an audit can take place. As this data was already available, Camfil were propelled to the very top of the list of eligible Companies.

In all, the smooth transition to the ERV Kitemark took less than six months from joining the pilot scheme, and less than three months from the pre-audit.

## The Results

Through a successfully implemented BS EN 16001 Energy Management System, and meeting the requirements of the ERV Kitemark, Camfil Farr instilled a discipline and culture within the organisation that truly focuses on energy awareness.

Additionally, the awards demonstrate to all Camfil Farr customers the culture required to achieve the Kitemark, allowing them to see the opportunity to engage in their own Early Action Metric as part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The Energy Management System and the ERV Kitemark resulted in substantial cost savings to the organisation, and a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For relatively little outlay, the systems required to achieve the Kitemark have delivered tangible results that clearly prove that energy management is not only the right thing to do morally, but also financially.

Savings achieved in the first year:

Gas	35%
Electricity	22%
Water	12%
Diesel Fuel	19%
Waste	17%

This equates to a financial saving of approximately **£120,000.00**

In the second year, an additional 14% saving (audited) was achieved, equating to a further **£80,000.00** saving.

The initiative also delivered a host of process improvements throughout the organisation, ensuring that Camfil Farr continues to maintain continuous improvement philosophy.

Through successfully achieving BS EN 16001 certification, and subsequently becoming the first company to be awarded the Energy reduction Verification Kitemark truly establishes Camfil Farr as a sustainable Company, who through their own knowledge and experience can effectively promote the benefits of low energy products and services to employees, customers and suppliers across the globe.

But this is just the beginning, in the words of Bill Wilkinson; *“Achievement is only temporary, continuous improvement is what counts”* as the company plans to continually review and refine all processes that have an effect on energy and utility consumption.

The whole process fits in perfectly with Camfil Farr’s products - Low energy Air Filters, which typically save 30% in energy consumption. Camfil Farr low energy air filters are also changed less frequently than competitor products, saving energy, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and reducing waste.

*“Everyone is starting to wake up to the obscene waste of energy in this country,”* says Wilkinson. *“Legislation has crept up on everyone and there are huge savings to be made everywhere. Since a core part of Camfil’s business is selling energy saving filters we felt it was crucial for the organisation to be seen to be practising what it preaches!”*



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