

The energy event

This year's Energy Event seems to have gained a whole new momentum, as industries face up to cranked-up costs. Brian Tinham reports

What

The Energy Event

Where

The National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham

When

10-11 September 2008

How

Go to: www.theenergyevent.co.uk

“First we had price as our lead criterion, then quality, then customer service. Now low carbon is coming onto that agenda – and it's going to be more important than all those put together.” So says Barclays Bank manufacturing chairman and former CBI manufacturing chair Nick Brayshaw.

If someone like him thinks so, we'd better start taking energy efficiency and the environment seriously. So it's opportune that the Energy Event is coming to the National Motorcycle Museum from 10-11 September, covering procurement, management and efficiency – methodologies, technologies, grants available, the lot.

Sponsored by Total Gas & Power, EDF Energy, Encore International, Llumalite, Shell Gas Direct and The Utilities Exchange, the event is putting its money where its mouth is and going carbon neutral, with Carbon Clear acting as carbon offsetting partner. More importantly, it's also staging a serious seminar and conference programme, hosted by ESTA (Energy Services and Technology Association), MEUC (Major Energy Users Council), Envirowise, CIBSE (Chartered Institute of Building Service Engineers), BCAS (British Compressed Air Society) and the Energy Information Centre (EIC).

Top savings

ESTA, for example, says it will run seminars about how plant engineers can save energy and costs by applying energy management to their buildings and processes, while MEUC will be looking at buying gas and power. EIC will be hosting an energy purchasing and market fundamentals seminar, with advice available from the organisation's staff on flexible supply contracts.

Then, at the engineering level, Envirowise will be majoring on water efficiency, offering to help delegates cut

bills by 50%. The organisation says it will identify ways to minimise water use by understanding where it occurs, and the methods and technologies now available to reduce it. There will also be an update on the Water Technology List (WTL), managed by Defra and HM Revenue and Customs with Envirowise, to encourage businesses to use water-efficient technologies.

As for CIBSE, the institute says visitors can expect to hear about the role of building services, including heating, air conditioning, lighting and security systems, in reducing their energy usage.

Moving on to the exhibition, you can expect 120 suppliers, covering everything from compressed air to HVAC, lighting, energy monitoring, drives and motors, as well as firms like Elementus on the energy consulting and compliance side.

CompAir, for example, will show its range of oil-free compressors and energy-efficient technology, focusing on Quantima, which has no gearbox and rotates at speeds of 60,000rpm, without mechanical contact, via a magnetic field. It also offers the lowest off-load power consumption of any comparable compressor and CompAir claims energy savings of up to 25% over conventional designs.

Then, Endress+Hauser will show equipment that, it says, can shave between 5 and 20% off energy bills by monitoring and targeting gas, steam, water and other utility meters. Data analysis indicates patterns of energy usage and thus achievable efficiency targets.

In a similar vein, t-mac says it will show its energy management system, which helps plant engineers to identify and control consumption and carbon footprint

for buildings, lighting, equipment and plant, all via the Internet. The system highlights which equipment is using most energy and why, and creates a plan to improve performance.

Meanwhile, for building energy management, Lightwave says its systems have moved out of R&D, offering intelligence to learn a building's characteristics and then control heating and cooling. Also, SPX Cooling will be

showing older eco-friendly plant that's been improved by new technology – such as evaporative cooling, claimed to cut energy by up to 50%, and the Marley NCWD cooling tower, capable of conserving up to 20% more water than a cooling tower. Both are largely manufactured from recycled materials. **PE**

