Adopting EnMS: Five Elements to a Successful Implementation

Energy is a cost that can be managed in the same way operations, labor, quality or safety is managed. Five core components create a successful and persistent energy management system (EnMS) that can drive huge cost savings and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions:

1. **Deliver Leadership**
   Top management must embrace and demonstrate a commitment to EnMS. Dedicating resources to energy management efforts (staff and financial resources), measuring and analysing energy use with production (energy intensity) and ensuring a dedicated team is in place can lead to significant operational savings that are not just limited to energy costs.

2. **Set a goal**
   Identifying and communicating an energy reduction goal helps an enterprise meet multiple business objectives:
   - Control energy cost volatility by keeping energy reduction an operational priority.
   - Provide a risk mitigation strategy against increased production output and limited energy supply
   - Improve operational efficiency and industrial productivity with more reliable plant operations and a greater rate of return.
   - Cut operational costs and reduce future risks and costs associated with carbon taxes.

3. **Create an Energy Management Team**
   Assembling a dedicated team to implement EnMS creates a firm and stable commitment to executing on a carefully planned energy management strategy. Ensuring the team has resources to execute energy saving projects and top management support delivers the greatest opportunity of sustained and continuous energy savings.

4. **Provide Resources**
   Three resources are key to achieving a successful EnMS implementation.
   1. **Long term planning**: Investment in energy efficient equipment can establish persistent energy productivity.

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Consider assessing equipment upgrades from a long-term horizon perspective (5+ years), over which the facility experiences the greatest volume of energy savings.

2. **Technology**: Consider technologies such as meters that monitor, track and report energy data. Automating energy use data extraction and reports is a low-cost technology that can save hours in manual labor.

3. **Workforce**: Invest in building an energy management team that spans multiple divisions across the organization, ensuring the focus on EnMS is broad and efforts become embedded with ongoing business processes.

5. **Track & Measure**
Providing access to energy consumption and production data ensures enterprises have the capacity to create daily energy intensity reports. Reports designed to track energy usage and production throughput identify and measure energy performance, enabling enterprises to quickly make adjustments, compare facilities against one another for best practice sharing and to create a layer of management accountability against annual energy goal performance.

Identifying and communicating key performance indicators (KPIs) such as energy intensity per production line, ensures the organization has alignment with ongoing EnMS efforts and provides a path to adjusting, improving and communicating EnMS processes if needed.