

INDUSTRY INSIGHT: SUSTAINABLE SAVINGS IN HOTELS

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Mark Sait, managing director of SaveMoneyCutCarbon shows how two big hotel groups are sustainably saving thousands of pounds cutting energy, water use and carbon footprint

According to BBC Radio 5Live during its groundbreaking Energy Day, UK hospitality is leading the way in reducing energy and water use – an opinion backed in our work with hotels around the country.

We have seen a significant growth in the number of hotel brands placing urgent and greater emphasis on strategic sustainability, with a recognised demand to cut carbon emissions, particularly as from October, larger businesses will have to deal with mandatory carbon reporting.

In this context, I wanted to share two case studies that prove the commercial case for sustainability and "going green" – Carlson Rezidor (Radisson Blu and Park Inn by Radisson brands in the UK) and Puma Hotels' Collection.

These two leading hotel groups have benefited from expert guidance, an effective Carbon Trust-accredited sustainability partner and end-to-end management to ensure rapid and maximum return on "green" investment.

Carlson Rezidor, in partnership with SaveMoneyCutCarbon, has launched a wide-ranging initiative focusing on reducing guest water usage, maximising the efficiency of hotel boilers, and supporting roll out of LED lighting.

This will deliver savings of more than a quarter of a million pounds in this year in the UK alone. Adding hotels in Ireland, water and maintenance savings and other cost reductions, means that this figure could reach more than £1m, with rapid Return on Investment.

The LED roll out means that electrical load at the 48 hotels will be reduced by 3.67 million watts with downlights cut by 85-90 per cent and tubes by 50%.

The Carlson Rezidor water and boiler management projects follow a thorough estate-wide survey and financial modelling by SaveMoneyCutCarbon in 2012. The partnership will aid the company's ambitious Think Planet global initiative in the UK.

Peter Gee, Carlson Rezidor technical service director who initiated the original surveys says: "Once installation is complete, we will see a significant difference in terms of energy use in all our hotels in the UK and Ireland, and importantly a notable improvement in our energy bills."

Turning to the 21 properties in the Puma Hotels' Collection, each hotel's showers and hand basins in guest rooms, leisure clubs and public areas were surveyed with flow-rate data plugged into a sophisticated financial modelling tool by the field services team, showing where savings could be made by retro fitting Hansgrohe EcoSmart water-saving technology.

Occupancy, usage assumptions and local utility prices data completed a clear picture for Puma's senior management showing exactly what products needed to be replaced and, equally important, where no action was needed.

Clear savings in water, waste and the energy used to heat the water together with assured carbon reductions meant that an investment decision could be made, based on clear payback in under 12 months.

SaveMoneyCutCarbon then worked closely with each hotel's maintenance teams to demonstrate and guide the installation process and, in several cases, had to source bespoke manufacturing solutions to meet some of the more complex plumbing and fitting challenges before completing the installation process.

The business case projections for savings are £58,000 in the next year on water consumption reductions and £24,000 on energy.

In the first three months following installation, Puma Hotels reports that it is 25% ahead of targets and so on course to achieve a Return on Investment well within the first year.

Equally important, it says that there has been no impact on guest satisfaction rates.

Paul Nisbett, Puma Hotels' Collection financial and commercial director, says: "The most satisfying part of our sustainability partnership with SaveMoneyCutCarbon is the fact that after we quickly recoup our investment, we will continue to save money month on month."

Puma Hotels Collection is now working with SaveMoneyCutCarbon to extend its sustainability strategy over the next 12 months, focusing on lighting, HVAC and boiler efficiency.

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Zoe took her first full-time steps into the world of journalism when she joined Hotel Business in early 2011 after graduating from University with a degree in Fashion Writing. Not one to cave under pressure, Zoe loves to get out and about in the industry meeting hospitality professionals and getting the latest industry scoops as the publication's roving reporter. A keen netball player, she makes sure the regular sporting activity helps to balance out her love of chocolate brownies.

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