

Sub-metering



Sub-metering is a term generally used to refer to separate metering installed to monitor the consumption of a utility such as water, gas or electricity, at a distribution point downstream of the incoming supply point.

Sub-metering enables a more detailed view of where and when usage occurs.

This can be particularly useful to assess usage of a particular distribution point, such as:

- A particular piece of equipment or say, a lighting circuit;
- A network distribution point to an area/zone or even a building.

What are the benefits of submetering?

As the saying goes, “If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.”

As such, submetering can be a useful way for landlords to measure tenant consumption, or to provide an opportunity for tenants to monitor their own consumption when utility supplies are included in rental charges.

Furthermore, having a greater understanding of utility usage can better help identify system problems and reduce waste, such as unusual patterns in consumption or an excessively high consumption plant.

This is essentially working to the same aims as utilising SMART metering.

Considerations

There are a multitude of submetering and data collection technologies available and the selection of an appropriate system is key.

Options can range from relatively simple portal monitors/loggers to fixed installations with multiple levels of sub-metering. In essence, the aim is to select a suitable system that meets the objectives of the task.

For energy management purposes, it is best that consumption data is recorded to enable proper analysis.

Gathering and retaining historic data provides a fundamental means of doing this.

The Golden Rule: Meters in themselves will not achieve anything. Understanding and acting on the data they provide does.

Further resources

Carbon Trust - Final report (May 2019):

[“Digital Technologies for Energy Management.”](#)

