

Annual £9,000 savings 'exceed expectations' of thrilled church leaders

METHODIST Church House is a ten-storey building in London's Marylebone Road that houses the headquarters of the British Methodist Church.

A registered charity, the organisation turned to iVolt as part of attempts to both reduce its impact on the environment and save money on increasing energy bills. With a useable floor area of 4,323m², the 80 year-old office block underwent a major refurbishment in 1999/2000 that saw offices converted from cellular to open plan, as well as the installation of lifts and air conditioning.

CFL lighting, air handling units and computers also contribute to an annual power consumption of around 558,000kWh and electricity bills of around £70,000 per year.

Towards the end of 2011, the MCH brought in sustainable building experts Arcadis to devise a carbon reduction strategy; the result was a recommendation to implement voltage optimisation. Working with iVolt distributor Powercor, the charity and its advisors weighed up the advantages of the iVolt system, which is designed to monitor the peaks and troughs of the existing supply and reduce it to a steady 220v (+/- 1.5%). By removing the risk of under or over voltage the iVolt not only allows for savings up to 30% more than a fixed reduction system but helps to protect electrical



DID YOU KNOW?
The amount of CO2e that iVolt is saving MCH, is equivalent to taking nine family cars off the road each year.

tool for assessing its true cost-effectiveness; this is why we opted for the iVolt."

Following surveys of the site in November 2011, two 300Amp iVolt units were installed over a three day period in January 2012. Initial forecasts had indicated energy savings of 10-11% - more than £7,000 a year - and a drop in Co2 emissions of 31.5 tonnes a year. However, measurements taken after the installation showed an actual reduction in electricity consumption of nearly 13%, which equates to Co2 savings of 38.04 tonnes and a cash boost of more than £9,000.

Reg Everest, Buildings and Facilities Officer at Methodist Church House, commented: "We were initially briefed on a wide range of green ideas and initiatives and had to carefully consider three factors; the first was capital spend and how much we, as a charity, could afford. We also had to think about the payback time of any investment and, longer term, how long we were likely to stay in the present building.

"Although installing the iVolt units wasn't the cheapest of the recommendations, we all agreed it was the best; the payback period was relatively very short and the predicted savings looked good. We were expecting savings of around 10% but in reality the figures are much higher, which is excellent. Our annual power

bill is something in the region of £70,000 so if we can reduce it by 13%, or even 10%, we will be very pleased. The iVolt has done exactly what it said on the tin."

In addition to the cost savings, a further benefit of running lights, computers and other electrical equipment at their optimum voltage means longer life spans - leading to further reductions in outgoings.

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Reg Everest
Buildings and Facilities Officer
Methodist Church House

equipment and reduce maintenance costs.

After researching competitors, the charity also turned to iVolt because of its unique IRT Energy Monitoring technology - a resource which allows real time monitoring of savings so the client can see value for money from the moment the units begin operating.

As David Ratcliffe, a director in charge of engineering and sustainability at Arcadis, explained: "Reducing their carbon footprint was a driving factor behind this investment but as a charity the MCH team were also very keen to see a quick return.

"I believe voltage optimisation to be one of the most cost-effective methods of reducing energy consumption, with one of the shortest pay-back periods. Being able to see at any given time what savings are being made, is a great

PROJECT/CUSTOMER:
Methodist Church House

DATE OF INSTALL:
January 2012

ANNUAL kWhr CONSUMPTION:
558,000

IVOLT UNIT SIZE:
2 x 300A

ENERGY SAVING:
13%

CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCTION:
38.04 metric tonnes

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IVOLT:

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- we PROVE them*

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The Daily Telegraph



*And we're the only voltage optimisation manufacturer who can ...



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