



Building Society Tackles Energy Nationwide

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Nationwide Case Study

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Nationwide Building Society has already been working to improve the energy efficiency of its headquarters building in Swindon. Besides being designed from the start to a good level of energy efficiency, David Bailey, Nationwide group energy manager, has since implemented even further enhancements and there is no doubt that this headquarters is continually striving to be an example of the efficient use of energy.

But Mr Bailey is not one to rest on his laurels. The headquarters has some good examples of the efficient use of energy, but what about the energy efficiency of the 680 local branches sited around the country?

Their energy bill in total is substantial. Most of the energy usage is in electricity, with air-conditioning for customer comfort being the prime user. What could be done to improve the branches' energy performance?

SavaControls were identified as a possible answer. These electronic controllers, in widespread use, are retrofitted to existing air conditioning units, heat pumps, refrigeration and air handling units to reduce their electricity consumption without affecting performance in any way. In the winter of 2001, a trial installation on four Nationwide branches with both single and three phase heat pumps was commissioned. The electricity consumption was then monitored.

"These trials demonstrated that the average savings from the heat pumps across four sites ranged between 15% and 22%, offering a better than 2 1/2 year payback on the overall installation cost" said Mr Bailey. He also appreciated that the savings in the summer months, whilst in chilling mode, are likely to be higher than when in winter heating mode.

Following these successful results, the first phase of the rollout across the branch network started in June 2002 with the first 59 being completed to programme. The second phase, a further 160 branches, was completed in July 2003 and Nationwide's intention is for the programme to continue in annual tranches across their entire branch network.

