Written by Jane Alexander with Paul Twite, 24-7 Power, Inc.
Friday, 01 December 2006 00:00

An experienced power quality engineer reveals how he goes about finding energy savings in a facility. It all begins with an energy audit.

"Using energy efficiently is cool again," says Paul Twite, referring to the current high cost of energy.Twite is a power quality engineer, a Level II certified thermographer and a co-owner of 24-7 Power, an electrical consulting and engineering service company in the business of helping other companies discover and fix their energy inefficiencies. 24-7 Power is also a full service manufacturers' representative for many of the instruments Twite uses in energy audits. Twite uses a three-step approach to help a company lower its energy bills.With the right tools and knowledge, your company can follow the same process using your own personnel.Here's how it works.

Step 1: Energy Accounting

This step consists of at least three parts: 1) reviewing utility bills; 2) scanning the electrical, mechanical, process and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) systems as well as the building envelope using thermography; and 3) monitoring for power consumption, power quality, power factor and other relevant aspects of energy use.

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A three-phase power quality analyzer is an essential tool when conducting energy audits. *(Photo courtesy of Fluke Corporation.)*

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A three-phase power logger can measure demand over time, which can help identify areas where companies can cut energy costs.(Photo curtesy of Fluke Corporation)

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