CROSS-SITE ENERGY BENCHMARKING / ILLUSTRATIVE CASE

Which sites should the energy team investigate first?

The management decision

Compare sites on an activity measure their managers recognise. A high total alone may reflect a larger workload. Use the comparison to choose where a local investigation is justified.

A site with a higher bill might run longer hours, serve a larger area or make a different mix of products. Ranking sites using totals alone can send time and budget to the wrong places. Benchmarking groups comparable operations and identifies differences large enough to look into locally. With the same basis for comparison, site managers can also share useful operating practices.

Worked example

Site A uses 60 MWh to make 15,000 units, or 4 kWh per unit. Site B uses 54 MWh for 12,000 units, or 4.5 kWh per unit. B uses less energy overall but more per item produced.

Example figure	What it represents
4 kWh/unit	Site A
4.5 kWh/unit	Site B
0.5 kWh/unit	Difference

What changes the answer

If B makes a more energy-intensive mix of products, the 0.5 kWh per unit difference may shrink or reverse. Compare similar output before ranking the sites.

Cross-site energy benchmarking

What to commission

Compare a group of similar sites using one agreed measure such as output or occupied hours.

We agree the basis for comparison with your team and flag places where occupancy, hours or production mix make it less reliable. We then identify which differences deserve follow-up and what information could explain them.

How to judge the result

The sponsor can explain the comparison groups, identify a site for investigation and flag any unfair comparison.

Ask whether the difference persists once product mix and hours are comparable. Confirm what can be changed before attaching a financial saving to an apparent performance gap.

Decision worksheet

Project detail	Starting point for your team
Decision owner	Multi-site operations director. Name the person who will approve the next step.
Records to gather	Energy use by site and period, plus measures such as output, floor area or operating hours.
Agreed output	A benchmark workbook, definitions of comparable groups and a shortlist for investigation.
Decision date	Record the deadline, any unresolved assumption and who will confirm it.

Discuss this case

Tell us which sites you want to compare and what management decision the result would support. Mention how the sites differ in purpose or operating hours and which activity figures you already collect. A few representative sites can anchor the first discussion.

Email info@oxetc.co.uk and mention ENG-14. All figures in the worked example are illustrative.