METERING DATA STANDARDS / ILLUSTRATIVE CASE

Can we combine meter readings from different sites?

The management decision

Settle what each column measures before combining files. A common header can still conceal a difference in units large enough to distort a site budget.

If one site reports power and another reports energy in a column with the same name, a group report can quietly compare different things. Inconsistent meter names or recording times can cause similar problems. Clear rules make it easier for teams to spot genuine differences and bring new sites into the same reporting process.

Worked example

An average power reading of 20 kW over half an hour represents 10 kWh of energy. Importing the number 20 directly into an energy column doubles the consumption shown for that period.

Example figure	What it represents
30 min	Length of reading period
20 kW	Average power
10 kWh	Energy used

What changes the answer

For a 15-minute period the same load uses 5 kWh. Confirm the reading frequency and whether the source holds average power or a running energy total before applying any conversion.

Metering data standards

What to commission

Agree meter names, units and time conventions for one export format used across two sites.

We check the rules against real source records and look for inconsistencies that could change a reported result. Where a reading could have more than one meaning, we identify what to confirm with the person responsible for that meter.

How to judge the result

A second analyst can convert sample readings from each source to the same reporting unit and period using the written rules.

Recalculate one previously disputed figure with the agreed rules. Record how many sources need correction and who owns each change before rolling it out.

Decision worksheet

Project detail	Starting point for your team
Decision owner	Energy reporting lead. Name the person who will approve the next step.
Records to gather	A meter list, sample files and the ways your sites describe readings today.
Agreed output	A written standard with examples and rules for converting existing records.
Decision date	Record the deadline, any unresolved assumption and who will confirm it.

Discuss this case

Tell us which sites or systems disagree today. Mention a name, unit or timing difference that has affected a report, and identify the team that could confirm what the original reading means. We can use one export type to define the starting scope.

Email info@oxetc.co.uk and mention IT-04. All figures in the worked example are illustrative.