

Electrifying: Power prices have skyrocketed in recent months.



How to ease energy bills



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Electricity prices continue to climb, and there doesn't appear to be any relief on the horizon in 2012. While rising prices may be unavoidable, there is a new opportunity for Western Australian businesses to ease the pressure being felt on energy budgets.

Millions of dollars in payments are now available to WA businesses and organisations that can reduce their energy use

through an energy management practice known as "demand response" (DR).

DR creates "virtual power plants," which are comprised of groups of energy users that strategically reduce demand for electricity at those critical times when there is peak demand on the electricity grid.

These businesses receive substantial payments in exchange for being "on call" and ready to

respond if and when the grid needs their contribution to prevent a blackout.

Many large electricity users in WA, including some members of the mining community, already provide this critically important service that helps keep supply and demand for electricity in balance.

EnerNOC, a firm specialising in DR services, enables businesses to participate in DR by providing technology, creating tailored energy reduction plans that don't negatively impact business operations, and ensuring compliance with all programme rules. EnerNOC has helped multiple mining operators capture substantial financial benefits

from DR while still ensuring they're able to meet all existing operational objectives.

In addition to delivering financial benefits, participating in DR gives WA businesses a smarter way to manage energy. Through web-based energy management software, like EnerNOC's DemandSMART, businesses gain a view into real-time meter data, regardless of whether their facility is equipped with its own smart meters.

For many energy users, this becomes an invaluable tool for better understanding the energy intensity of production, evaluating the impact of energy efficiency efforts, and potentially even reporting on key data related

to carbon emissions.

Demand response offers significant financial incentives in the short term, and with proper planning it can become an integral part of key long-term efforts, including corporate environmental responsibility, energy efficiency programs, and operational maintenance and reliability planning.

The bottom line is this: for any manager used to looking at energy as an ever-flowing expense, it is a welcome change to be paid to use less energy.

To learn more about DR opportunities through EnerNOC, visit www.enernoc.com.

Behemoth spends big to keep power flowing onsite



Powerhouse: BHP is going to build and operate a CCGT power station in Newman to power its Pilbara mining operations.

BHP Billiton is spending big to secure a future power supply for its Western Australia iron ore mining operations in the Pilbara.

The company has approved the development of its US\$597 million (\$593 million) Yarnima Power Station.

BHP will build, own, and operate the combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station in Newman and it will be capable of delivering 190 megawatts. It will replace supply from the existing Newman Power Station.

The power station will include gas turbines equipped with heat recovery steam generators to capture waste heat for the generation of additional power.

This will minimise gas usage while increasing thermal efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. In the event of a gas

service interruption, the plant has also been configured to allow normal operations to continue using diesel fuel.

Power supply from this project is expected to be available in the first half of 2014.

BHP Billiton President Iron Ore, Ian Ashby, said the new power station will help with the company's massive expansion plans in the region as well as increasing efficiency.

"Yarnima Power Station will power our existing operations and provide a platform for further mine development," said Mr Ashby.

"By employing state of the art technology, this power station will also increase our carbon efficiency and promote long term energy sustainability."