



Return on Intelligence Inc.

Business Intelligence Solutions for Energy Management

Energy managers and energy professionals work results in huge savings for many companies and organizations. However, all of these successes have not eliminated the continuing need to install new technology and new processes to control energy savings more efficiently, improve quality and productivity.

Today energy professionals need higher profile work environment, providing them with a method for taking energy use data and turning it into operating decision information, a simple but powerful and which helps facilities better control their energy use and energy cost. This method opens the door to some new opportunities that are available using modern information technology in facilities.

Business Intelligence and data warehousing technologies are to provide energy professionals with a single central source of information, encapsulating energy consumption and market data from various Web sources, such as energy prices, weather data, drilling rigs and storage information. They provide analysts with easy-to-use tools to report on data by dates, regions, or energy providers. Calculations, such as projected averages for the past periods of time or comparison between summer and winter prices, are available 'on fly'. With this complete information, analysts can find quick answers to questions like "What the price of crude oil is for the near-end contracts?" or "Find an energy provider to buy oil from at this price and have it delivered by this date."

Business Intelligence software technology can make energy analysis more effective by a) minimizing manual work, b) providing them with a single version of truth, c) empowering in planning and budgeting.

With the explosive growth in information that can be found on the Web, many energy professionals are still spending over 50% of their work day downloading daily energy information. To improve business effectiveness, this manual work should be replaced with fully automatic processes that collect information from various sources of energy data.

Microsoft Excel, even though provides much utility for your analysts, wreaks havoc on the quality and consistency of information. Energy analysts develop Excel spreadsheets to assist with the day-to-day operational decisions that their jobs demand. Pleased with the autonomy and sophisticated analysis that Excel supports, they share their innovations with colleagues, who then modify the spreadsheet logic and manually tack on data from their own information silos. Over time, rogue spreadsheets with data from multiple dubious spreadsheets are propagated throughout the organization and executives find themselves making decisions based on untraceable, questionable data. In this scenario, the company is at a loss to audit the information and numbers in the spreadsheet "reports". On top of it, sharing spreadsheets between several users is often causing data access problems. Meanwhile, the IT division is unable to provide complete, auditable, reliable, and backed-up operational system to support user community.



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Planning is essential part of energy data analysis. It is often done in Excel, with planning and budgeting numbers are buried in personal spreadsheets that cannot be easily shared between professionals. Business intelligence, on another hand, offers effective solutions for flexible planning, budgeting and analytics with increased accuracy in resource allocation and business forecasting. It helps reduce planning cycles by 75% and reporting from days to minutes. It personalizes planning and analytics, and also aligns financial and operational targets in one connected, shared, dynamic solution. With these tools, planners can model various "What If" scenarios very effectively. They can experiment with the budget numbers from familiar Excel environment and compare outcomes with KPIs and graphical displays. By simulating alternatives and comparing them through key metrics, energy managers and energy professionals can make better decisions.

At Return on Intelligence, we develop solutions that provide energy professionals with specific improvements in their work environment:

- avoid manual, error-prone, processes whenever possible and minimize manual work done
- prevent accumulation of critical data in personal spreadsheets and creation of "spread-marts"
- formalize acquisition of data, share processes to reduce the re-work
- provide on demand ad-hoc, with no query limits
- have data in its atomic form, that can be used for predictive modelling
- provide Web-based deployment

As a result, energy professionals can finally enjoy

- Increased productivity
- Better quality
- Flexible workforce
- Increased IT efficiency
- Deeper business insights

They can also avoid significant costs related to

- Delays in delivering data to decision makers and customers
- Lost opportunities through poor service
- Lost time and resources through information exchange problems

For more information contact Olga Klimova, our principal business intelligence consultant, at olga@returnonintelligence.ca, and we will help you help identify problems or opportunities and recommend analytical solutions that can enable your organization achieve its goals.