Customer Success Story

ANR Probake

ANR Probake:

- Independent Food Manufacturer
- Provides high-protein cookies and flapjacks bars and cookies. In essence, “healthy junk food”!
- Required a full lighting survey and overhaul of existing system

“From the first meeting they inspired confidence and could see the situation from our point of view.”

Background

Based at their HQ at Oakdale in South Wales ANR - Probake are a self-styled “ Functional Food Company.

ANR Probake operates in one of the world’s most heavily regulated markets – the UK food manufacturing industry. Since its inception in 2008, the business has gone from strength to strength in a highly competitive marketplace.

The Challenge

By 2019 they had already acquired a new site and were assessing upgrading their existing facility. This assessment resulted in the decision to upgrade their old lighting system which was of the old metal halide type and was causing problems, chiefly failures that required expensive labour costs and lifting equipment to remedy. “It was a sticking plaster over a gaping wound – it was taking up the QA’s time and so we realised we had to renew the whole Lighting system” said Dr Thomas Caswell, Compliance Officer at ANR.

He added “Compliance and Quality Assessment are key components of ANR’s success. This requires constant evaluation and upgrading of systems and equipment wherever possible. The existing lamps took 15 minutes to warm up losing us valuable production time in the Winter months. Fixing single lighting failures was both costly and time consuming.”

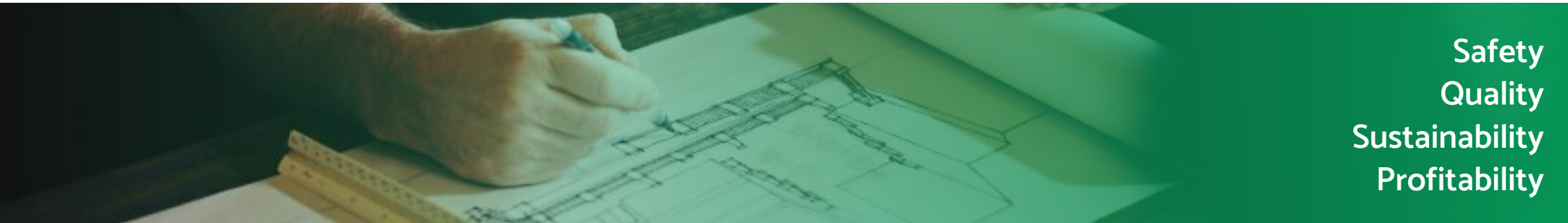
This patchwork quilt approach was clearly not working but the decision to upgrade the lighting came with considerable risks;

- Foreign Body Control: ANR had stringent policies in place for this but could a contractor adhere to this? Would they appreciate the severity of breakages?
- How would the project be managed? How much of ANRs resources would be taken up with this?
- What about choosing a contractor? Would they have experience of working in a sterile environment? Would they understand the controls-risk?
- Tight Deadlines: Could the contractor adhere to a specific and prevent operational downtime?
- Project Management: Would there be a suitable project plan that incorporated all the risks?

Food stocks and bulk powder particulates coming into contact with broken glass, toxic substances and debris? This was the nightmare scenario to be avoided at all costs.

The Solution

Through a referral, ANR Probake contacted the Green Hat Sustainability Team. After a few phone calls, Green Hat suggested they visit the ANR building and undertake a Full Lighting Survey of the building. This included a condition survey of all the lighting including emergency lighting, analysis of electricity bills, site photographs and interviews with staff and to see first-hand the working conditions and environment.



Safety
Quality
Sustainability
Profitability

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Dr Caswell comments “From the first meeting they inspired confidence and could see the situation from our point of view. They appreciated the challenges of working in a controlled environment”

The Green Hat team led by Mr Dean Partridge then produced a full report including technical specifications, energy & cost Savings, ROI, payback periods and full project costs. This report was then presented to the ANR- Probake team led by Dr Tom Caswell.

Dr Caswell - “Our concerns were addressed immediately. We were impressed with how detailed the survey and the subsequent report were. Their desire to listen to our concerns and attention to detail certainly inspired confidence.”

A system of bespoke dust sheets and plastic bags was used suspended from the lighting trunking and a structure was put in place before isolation and removal of any fitting and all machinery was appropriately covered with plastic sheeting. To access high level, a MEWP was sized to run between the static manufacturing machinery, working on one fitting at a time under each light fitting as we removed it. This served to minimise the risk of breakage considerably. Work was to be undertaken on weekends when no production activities were taking place.

The Result

Increased Operational Efficiency & Better Compliance & H&S
Dr Caswell notes that the old metal halide lighting took 10-15 mins to “warm up” before the storage area could be used safely.

“The new lighting is instant. On winter mornings this has saved us considerable time throughout the week to get things moving and makes it easier for staff to locate stock. This has resulted in increased productivity and Health & Safety.”

ANR - Probake now has a modern energy efficient lighting system which is reflective of their commitment to constant improvement. The Emergency lighting will give better illumination to exit routes in case of a fire or power outage.

High Bay lighting in the production areas means improved lux levels for staff operating machinery and staff in the warehouse facility operating forklift trucks with pallets. It is easier to find stock.

The office staff immediately appreciated the improved lighting whilst working at their computers and the improved aesthetics of the offices and meeting rooms.

> “We were impressed with how detailed the survey and the subsequent report were.”

Reduced Risks
The risk of failures with the old lighting, outdated emergency lighting, and danger of harmful and toxic chemicals being released from breakages are not completely eradicated. This is one less concern for Dr Caswell when facing external audits and certifications and inspections. He comments “The whole working environment is improved and makes cleaning easier. A sterile environment for us is critical to safe production and the new lighting means there is one thing less to worry about. Staff also instantly noted how much of an improvement it made to everyday operations”

Energy Savings & Maintenance Cost Savings
Frankly, cost and energy savings were not the primary reason for ANR - Probake undertaking this project. The savings on electricity costs over 10 years over a 10 year period amount to £37,345. Not bad for a side benefit!

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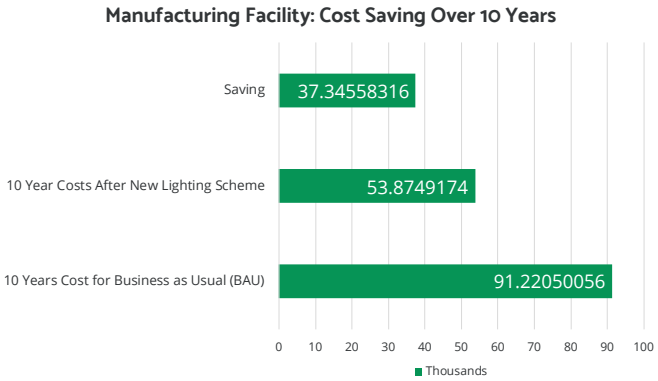
The payback period on investment for the scheme was 2,67 years. A 33% CO2 saving per annum.

The financial saving for replacing the 19 lights and 12 emergency lights over 10 in the building was calculated as £37,345.58.

The above in actual consumption data means a decrease from 33,850 kwh to 16,452 kwh. This was achieved while Increasing light levels from 300 Lux to 500 Lux.



The old lighting system needed frequent maintenance and repairs. Due to the height of the High Bay fittings, this required lifting equipment at considerable cost and disruption to operations. It also meant sourcing and calling in outside contractors and sourcing replacement lighting.

These maintenance costs and disruption to operations has now been eradicated.

Carbon Reduction Emissions & Improved Green Credentials
Again, although the above was not a primary aim of the project the annual Carbon Emissions for ANR decreased from 17.8 tonnes to 8.7 tonnes.

This means the company can demonstrate its commitment to CO2 Emissions and Climate Change with real data. This will improve its CSR credentials with its Supply Chain and Corporate customers alike.

Future Proofed Facility
Dr Tom Caswell "The installers were the best we have ever had on site. Their care and professionalism was first class. We appreciated the constant updates and communication and enjoyed their collaborative approach, it's fair to say we all got to know each other quite well by the end! From the get go the very first meeting instilled us with confidence that they shared our concerns and appreciated the risks we faced.

We also liked that we were given options on specification and the installation itself and that they were flexible in their approach. All in all we are delighted with the result and would have no hesitation in recommending them to others".