Zebra Technologies – 50001 Ready

WHY 50001 READY?

The U.S. Department of Energy's 50001 Ready program is a self-paced, no-cost way for organizations to build a culture of structured energy improvement that leads to deeper and sustained energy and GHG savings. Recognition is available for facilities and organizations that self-attest to the implementation of an ISO 50001-based energy management system without external audits or certifications.

Overview

Zebra Technologies, headquartered in Lincolnshire, Illinois, offers intelligent hardware, software, and services across a variety of sectors, including retail, healthcare, manufacturing, government, and banking. Zebra's solutions help customers and end-users achieve their critical business objectives, including improved operational efficiency, workflows, asset utilization, and customer experiences.

Zebra's Holtsville, New York location specializes in operations and engineering, providing validation testing of Zebra's products, namely mobile computers and handheld devices. At 300,000 square feet in size, the Holtsville facility employs approximately 1,000 on-site, hybrid, and remote workers. Of those employees, about 645 are active on the site daily.

Zebra was a partner of the Department of Energy (DOE)'s Low Carbon Pilot, which contributed to the Better Climate Challenge, and is part of the Better Plants Program, which inspired Zebra to set a goal of 25% reduction in energy intensity by 2030. The company worked with Argonne National Laboratory on a risk scenario analysis to assess physical climate risk across its global value chain, which includes supply chain, distribution, and customer markets.

Zebra also joined the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), which is focused on enabling organizations to set science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The company chose DOE's Better Plants Program as a technical partner in working towards meeting its target.

1 Zebra Plaza. Courtesy of Zebra Technologies

"50001 enables an organization to focus on operational energy consumption and implement measures to better manage it, such as energy efficiency retrofits, with the ultimate result seen in GHG savings."

– Kester Matthew,
Director Environmental, Health and Safety Management

Solutions

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT), a global ecolabel for the information technology sector, was the driving factor for Zebra's 50001 Ready implementation. Federal regulations require the acquisition of EPEAT-registered products by federal agencies to save government money and reduce environmental and public health impacts. Zebra now has EPEAT-registered tablets and mobile computers. 50001 Ready requirements were advantageous to Zebra's EPEAT registration/score, as EPEAT grants additional points via their comprehensive rating system when a facility has earned the 50001 Ready designation.

Zebra's Holtsville facility achieved 50001 Ready in September 2023. Another location in Canada is pursuing 50001 Ready recognition through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), a department of the Canadian Government.

Key Takeaways: Implementing a 50001 Ready Energy Management System

- **Management System:** The Holtsville facility is certified under the ISO 14001 environmental management and ISO 9001 quality management system standards. As a part of the ISO 14001 certification process, energy use was identified as a critical area of improvement. Staff defined objectives around reducing energy consumption and determined that 50001 Ready was a suitable fit for further mobilizing the site's ongoing energy management and carbon reduction goals.
- **50001 Ready Navigator Tool:** Zebra's Holtsville facility hired a summer intern to help perform a gap assessment using the 50001 Ready Navigator tool. The tool was user-friendly to the point that a junior in college had no problem picking it up and navigating through it. The Navigator's guiding questions were especially helpful in identifying gaps in their preexisting energy management program. The Holtsville team uses the Navigator to monitor progress toward meeting its energy and carbon reduction goals, along with other tools.
- **Team Effort:** The energy management team at Holtsville is comprised of a facility operations team, equipment operators, procurement, and the site engineering team. These diverse stakeholders are able to view projects from multiple angles (engineering, financial, and operations), track energy consumption, advise on how to improve the operation of certain pieces of equipment, and manage day-to-day energy management activities. Also, their DOE Technical Account Manager, in addition to providing expertise on energy optimization as a part of their participation in the Better Plants Program, was a very helpful resource.

Zebra Technologies' Lab Associates. Courtesy of Zebra Technologies.

"Not only does 50001 Ready help us streamline our environmental and energy systems data, but it also helps generate a competitive edge by enabling us to earn more points on our product's EPEAT registrations. Implementing these energy efficiency improvements supports Zebra's Corporate ESG program, positioning Zebra to remain an employer of choice."

– Nick Clemente,
Manager Regulatory – Product Compliance and Safety

Other Benefits

An additional benefit of the 50001 Ready program identified by Zebra was the improvement and strengthening of processes. 50001 Ready raised the energy-saving consciousness of users at the site, notably in the engineering team's procurement of equipment. Since the team used 50001 Ready to identify energy management system gaps at the site, Zebra was able to replicate methods of addressing these gaps and identifying opportunities across their other facilities.

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