

# The Co-operative Group cuts 722 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with IBM

## Overview

### ■ The Challenge

*Aiming to cut its total energy use by 25 per cent by 2012, The Co-operative Group identified overnight electricity consumption in its 2,200 food stores as a prime candidate for reduction*

### ■ The Solution

*Working with IBM, The Co-operative's in-house IT team re-engineered its InControl store end-of-day batch processing system, enabling the introduction of 'Wake-up on LAN' capabilities for all 45,000 of its in-store POS-related devices*

### ■ The Benefits

*By automatically switching off in-store devices overnight and re-starting them in the morning, the solution is expected to save 1.68 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, saving an estimated £120,000 and cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated 722 tonnes*



The Co-operative Group ([www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop)) is the world's largest consumer co-operative, with 2.5 million active trading members and more than 80,000 employees. In 2007, the Group turned over £9.4 billion, carrying out 14 million food transactions each week.

Social responsibility is one of the four key ethical values of The Co-operative Group, so it should come as no surprise that the organisation is a leader in tackling global climate change. Some 4,000 of the Group's outlets are powered by energy from renewable sources, and The Co-operative Insurance Society's head office in Manchester is Europe's largest vertical solar project. All three sides of its 25 storeys are clad in solar panels, generating enough electricity each year to power 1,000 PCs.

With a corporate target of reducing energy consumption across all business premises by 25 per cent by 2012, The Co-operative Group resolved to cut out-of-hours electricity use in its 2,200 food stores. Against a backdrop of fast-rising energy prices, it made sound business sense – as well as environmental sense – to power-down non-essential systems during closing hours.

### **Cutting costs and CO<sub>2</sub>**

When The Co-operative Group's food stores close each evening, the Group's InControl store management software runs an end-of-day batch process to collate sales and stock data for submission to head office. Working with IBM Retail Store Solutions, The Co-operative Group's in-house IT team re-engineered the software to include a controlled

power-down of all point-of-sales (POS) equipment. When the stores re-open for business in the morning, the solution uses 'Wake-up on LAN' technology to automatically re-start all the relevant systems.

With a total of 45,000 pieces of equipment in its stores – including 7,500 POS terminals with linked receipt printer, 15,000 screens, 7,500 barcode scanners and 7,500 chip-and-pin card terminals – the positive impact of the solution will be considerable. Turning off non-essential systems during the night will cut an estimated 1.68 million kilowatt hours of electricity use each year, saving around £120,000 per year at current prices.

Beyond the financial benefits, the IBM and Co-operative Group solution should cut around 722 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the food stores business and contributing to the fight against climate change.

### **Longer service and less waste**

The powering-down of systems during the night should also extend the useful life of the POS equipment by as much as 30 per cent, enabling The Co-operative Group to reduce the frequency of investment in new hardware.

This should not only reduce capital expenditure, but also cut the amount of non-recyclable waste that will ultimately end up in landfill.

The need to comply with the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive has increased the cost of disposing of old equipment; again, by prolonging the service-life of its POS systems, The Co-operative Group should reduce its long-term costs.

Mark Hale, Director of IS Food Retail, comments: "The re-engineering of the POS system so it can be shut down at night clearly underlines The Co-operative Group's continuing commitment to the environment and to finding new ways of saving energy."

Janine Cook, Director of Retail Stores Solutions, IBM UK, comments: "IBM has a commitment to develop products and services that are designed to reduce the consumption of energy. Working with The Co-operative Group, we have applied our green know-how to help them release savings that they can plough back into their business."



### **IBM United Kingdom Limited**

PO Box 41  
North Harbour  
Portsmouth  
Hampshire  
PO6 3AU

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