

Energy Savings at Freccia Rossa and Gli Orsi

Challenge

A combination of carbon taxes and increasing competition for global resources is having an impact on local energy markets. Both these factors are leading to an increase in the price of energy, which represents a risk to our business. We are focusing on improving the energy efficiency of our portfolio to reduce these risks, and have set a long-term objective to attain a maximum average electricity consumption of 400 kWh per m² (mall and toilet area) per year across Sonae Sierra owned shopping centres by 2020. In 2012, we achieved an average electricity consumption of 444 kWh per m², yet at two of our centres in Italy, Freccia Rossa and Gli Orsi, electricity consumption remained above average.

Solution

In 2013, both Freccia Rossa and Gli Orsi took steps to reduce their electricity consumption in order to cut their operational costs and reduce their environmental impact. At Freccia Rossa, we installed double glazed curtains in the skylights above the food court at a total cost of €125,730. These reduce the need for air conditioning by blocking out direct sunlight and at the same time provide shade for shopping centre visitors. At Gli Orsi, we invested €10,850 to upgrade the lighting system in the centre's technical corridor with 94 LED light bulbs that use around 50% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs, and also require less maintenance due to their longer life-span.

Results

At Freccia Rossa, the curtains have improved visitor comfort levels whilst at the same time helping to reduce electricity consumption to 4.6 million kWh in 2013, a 7% reduction compared to 2012. The measures implemented have helped to improve the centre's energy efficiency by 4% meaning in 2013 it achieved an electricity consumption of 547 kWh per m², down from 572 kWh per m² in 2012.

At Gli Orsi, our intervention has delivered annual energy savings of 12,800 kWh, which translates into a cost saving of around €2,170 per year. This represents an 9% improvement in electricity efficiency, meaning in 2013 it achieved an electricity consumption of 449 kWh per m², down from 488 kWh per m² in 2012.