

How to avoid costly energy project mistakes in manufacturing. - Northmore Gordon

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Worse still, some organisations base these important decisions on incomplete data. A well-executed feasibility study based on measured data removes that uncertainty, providing clear technical and financial insight before decisions are made. This ensures projects deliver real, measurable outcomes. What is a feasibility study? A feasibility study assesses whether a proposed project – such as electrification, energy efficiency upgrade or renewable integration – is technically viable, financially sound and operationally practical. Northmore Gordon's approach goes beyond standard engineering modelling to also consider site-specific operational constraints, the regulatory and business environment and detailed financial analysis including ROI and funding pathways. This enables confident, investment-grade decision-making. Why feasibility studies matter Energy and infrastructure projects often require significant capital, and the consequences of poor planning compound quickly. A well-scoped feasibility study identifies true project costs, including hidden risks, validates realistic savings and highlights funding and environmental certificate opportunities. The Australian Energy Efficiency Council notes that well-executed projects can reduce energy costs by 10-30%, but only when properly scoped and implemented. Without detailed analysis, projects frequently underperform, or worse, the wrong project is selected. Good feasibility studies provide accurate analysis based on measured data, and consider a range of risks including energy savings being realised, energy price variability, external market conditions, current business performance and future business direction. They also allow organisations to move from reactive upgrades to strategic decarbonisation, prioritising initiatives based on environmental and energy targets, emissions reduction potential, cost-effectiveness, operational impact and future business direction. Organisations that bypass feasibility analysis often face overestimated savings, budget overruns from incomplete scope, wrong equipment selection, lost funding or certificate opportunities and compliance gaps. In many cases, businesses end up reinvesting to fix poorly planned systems, effectively paying twice. Why feasibility studies matter for industry Industrial environments are complex,

with tight margins, resource constraints, and uptime pressures. Poorly planned projects can disrupt production, increase maintenance costs and result in underperforming assets. For CFOs and facility managers, a feasibility study answers the critical questions before capital is committed: Will this solution work on our site? What are the operational risks? What is the real return? Manufacturing situations that benefit most Feasibility studies deliver value in all manufacturing facilities at any time. However their impact, and the energy efficiency (or productivity) benefit is super-charged when Old equipment needs upgrading The production mix has changed, leaving some equipment operating less efficiently Production output has changed (either higher or lower), resulting in poorly matched utility systems There are structural shifts in the price differential between electricity and gas The business has energy or carbon targets that are not being met The business is looking for a step change in performance At the design stage, before a new plant is even being built. What makes Northmore Gordon different Northmore Gordon delivers senior expertise without the bureaucracy of large firms or the limitations of volume providers. Our engineering team conducts detailed system modelling and technology-specific analysis that goes beyond standard approaches. With 15+ years of Australian experience, we integrate business needs and an understanding of the regulatory environment into every engagement. Our financial modelling covers ROI and scenario analysis, certificate optimisation and funding pathways. Clients work directly with senior engineers, no account management layers, faster decisions and clearer advice. Case study In a recent manufacturing electrification project, Northmore Gordon identified a viable technical pathway, uncovered significant certificate revenue opportunities and redesigned the system to reduce capital cost. The project delivered both emissions reduction and strong financial returns, outcomes that would not have been achieved without detailed upfront analysis. Explore more case studies on our website. Conclusion Feasibility studies are not optional, but well-rounded feasibility studies can be rare. They are essential for reducing risk, improving outcomes and navigating regulatory requirements. They enable organisations to invest with confidence, avoid costly mistakes and maximise financial and environmental outcomes. At Northmore Gordon, feasibility studies help organisations achieve better results with less risk, less waste and less uncertainty. electrification , Energy Audit , energy costs , Energy Efficiency , Engineering , Feasibility Study , Manufacturing You may also like: Welcome to our August & September 2026 Compliance Update. Australian Certificate Markets – August 2026 Update Where's the value in renewable heat? Latest Updates ASRS Group 3: are you in scope and don't know it? September 18, 2026 Correct as at 13 September 2026. 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