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# Green Initiatives by Shoper Stop Ltd. for Conservation : Best Practices Introduced by Sudhir Soundalgekar

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*Sudhir Soundalgekar\**

### About the Author

**Sudhir Soundalgekar** has handled for building infrastructure for Shoppers Stop, Home Stop, Crossword, Mother Care, Mac from taking over the premises for fit-outs up to handing over to business operations on all India basis. He is also instrumental in implementing Energy Conservation, Monitoring & Rain harvesting measures. A leader with rich experience in projects across multifarious industry spectrums for last 25 years has expressed his thought process very effectively during this summit, on Green Technology & Practises which he has been executing in Shoppers Stop.

### His Green initiatives at Stoppers stop Ltd.

As per the sources & available data, the Indian retail sector is the second largest employer and contributor to GDP after agriculture with growth in metros, Tier-II, Tier-III cities as well as organized Retailing is fastest growing sectors in the economy which is expected to reach the size of \$ 200 billion by year 2020.

Here Sudhir strongly feels that along with the growth in retail sector, the bigger challenge for all the Retailers is the rising power tariffs. Hence there is a huge opportunity for everyone to reduce the unit consumptions to improve company's bottom line. This is possible if we invest in certain technologies & follow simple practices as a discipline .....Leading to Green !!!

His endeavours to implement these technologies at Shoppers Stop, started way back in year 2007 when he had kick started its initiatives for climate protection in 2007 with the mission to conserve energy and formulated an **Energy Management Policy**. Shoppers Stop has been awarded the "Best Prax Prize" for innovations in Green Initiatives during the 23<sup>rd</sup>Qimpro convention – September 2011.

Sudhir with this team explored various opportunities available to conserve energy & water; viz.

- To lower operating expenses against increased power tariffs.
- To improve efficiencies in services design to bring efficiency in power consumption pattern.
- To reduce usage of packaging material & its wastage.
- To save water at office, stores & residences.
- To get better efficiencies from air-conditioning system.

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- To reduce amount of wood Project fit-out works.
  - To recycle e-waste.

Retail sector being too dynamic to attract customers has to have better ambience, better lighting, better air-conditioning. Sudhir in his own words has explained the matrix of energy conservation within Shoppers Stop stores without compromising Comfort to Feel, to See & to Use. All the opportunities were technically studied very well through various brain storming sessions, churning of thoughts, examples around. An innovative approach has resulted into providing justified solutions for the organization. The step by step executions were carried out by implementing the following initiatives.

- LED lighting in signage to save on consumption in maintenance & in Capex.
- Skylights installation which reduced day power requirement.
- Rescheduling of Air Handling Units.
- Use of better refrigerant in chillers which is not harmful to Ozone layer.
- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for AHU & secondary pump.

- Central Energy Monitoring Systems to monitor consumption pattern.
- Rain water harvesting.
- Setting of computers for taking double sided printouts.
- Recycling of E-Waste & old clothes.
- Tree plantation.

The execution of these innovative solutions naturally resulted in huge benefits to stake holders, to the customers, the industry & to the society as well. Sudhir has shared these best practices to all to create more awareness as he believes that these initiatives are sustainable & supporting noble cause of conserving resources for sustainability. These will definitely encourage other retailers to strive for similar initiatives which is the ultimate objective of his organization's policy. No doubt this is not the end of his achievements but a continuous improvement through set goals & milestones will surely benchmark the organization to the global level.