



SAVING TIME AND MONEY WITH NEW RFID METERS

North Shore Holiday Centre, Skegness

Control, monitor and manage energy better than ever

The popular North Shore Holiday Centre in Skegness has reduced its carbon footprint and saved money by installing new pre-payment electricity meters for touring caravans for the first time.

The 41 acre site, which is a short walk to the beach and Skegness town, has hard standing for 135 touring caravans as well as static caravans, apartments, chalets and pods. The introduction of pre-payment electricity meters from DigiCard Systems Ltd is the latest move designed to reduce the park's energy overheads, having already installed a range of other measures including low energy lighting, solar panels, thermal tubes and rainwater harvesting.

Visitors with touring caravans were previously given unlimited electricity as part of their site fee. However, following spot checks on energy consumption the decision was taken to introduce meters. Site Manager Tommy White explains:

“Until this year touring caravans could effectively use as much energy as they wanted: they simply plugged in and away they went.”

“However we found that some customers had heaters going all day and night, even in their awnings,” said Tommy. “As well as being wasteful and expensive, it was also very dangerous. We decided that we needed to take action to encourage more careful use of our energy supply.”

*Tommy White, Site Manager
North Shore Holiday Centre*

Key Facts

System benefits

- Uses the latest contactless (RFID) radio frequency technology
- Highly accurate metering: fully compliant with all Ofgem and MID (Measuring Instruments Directive) requirements
- Easy to use and simple to administer
- Improved reliability and security
- Choice of disposable or reusable cards, with denominations from £1 to £50
- Ideal for first installations and upgrades of existing equipment



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Contactless pre-payment meters

North Shore Holiday Centre approached their local supplier, Hallgate Electrical, who recommended DigiCard Systems' new generation of contactless RFID pre-payment card meters.

The meters use the latest RFID contactless technology, meaning that pre-payment cards need only be held close enough to the electricity meter for the credits to be transferred. Unlike older magnetic-stripe cards, RFID cards are not inserted into the meter, making the system more reliable and tamper proof than the CPM5188A Electrocard Meter that it has replaced.

North Shore opted for rechargeable cards to go with their RFID pre-payment meters. Rechargeable cards have the benefit of being reprogrammable using a simple USB connected Desktop Charger and an annual software licence. In order to protect the Park Owner's revenue stream each card is encrypted with a unique site code so that it cannot be used elsewhere and can be cancelled if lost or stolen.

The new system was installed and tested and all training carried out by DigiCard Systems Ltd ready for the start of the 2014 holiday season.

New approach

North Shore's new pre-payment system is managed via dedicated software on a single laptop. When booking on to the site, customers are issued with a specially printed, re-usable PVC card. Each card is loaded with a set daily allowance for electricity, the value of which is displayed on the customer's electricity meter. If a customer needs more electricity, they simply top up their card.

Tommy explains, "We were able to work with DigiCard Systems in order to make the system bespoke in a number of ways. We chose to show the value of the electricity on the meters instead of units so that our guests would have a better appreciation of how much electricity they had left at any given time."

"DigiCard Systems were also able to make the cards multi-purpose, so that each one can also control locks and our entry barriers, which is much more convenient for everyone," says Tommy. "We found the software extremely easy to use; our reception team could apply the right credit to the card with the press of just one button,"

*Tommy White, Site Manager
North Shore Holiday Centre*



NORTH SHORE

Cost savings

The team is delighted with the results.

"We are over the moon with the control and flexibility the system has given us and what it is saving financially. When we compare this Easter to last year, our electricity usage is down by around a third despite having more visitors," says Tommy.

"We believe that the meters have paid for themselves already. We can't believe how much difference it has made and how it has changed people's behaviours.

"Of course introducing meters was never going to be popular with everyone, but from our perspective it's not about penalising our customers' usage, it's simply about making our customers stop and think about how much energy they're using."

Summary

According to North Shore the system has been a resounding success.

"Our message to other customers in our position is don't waste any time - get it done now. We're delighted we did," says Tommy.

