



Spara Overview: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does the Spara system generate savings?

- A:** Spara is an advanced energy management system (EMS) that can help you reduce electricity costs by pursuing the following strategies:
- **Meaningful peak demand control.** Spara can control power demand throughout your facility, allowing you to minimize costly demand peaks without compromising quality or causing unanticipated disruptions.
 - **Respond to dynamic pricing.** Spara constantly monitors your meters while keeping an eye on pricing data from your utility, allowing you to quickly shift usage to take advantage of lower rate opportunities or minimize charges during rate spikes.
 - **Demand response (DR) participation.** Spara makes it possible to increase DR participation reliably and meet energy reduction commitments.
 - **Refrigeration system efficiency.** The refrigeration system is typically the heaviest power user in a food/beverage processing plant or cold storage warehouse. Spara implements a number of efficiency measures by integrating fan, pump, compressor, and condenser strategies into the system.

Q: How is it possible to reduce energy expenses without negatively affecting production?

- A:** Spara works by shifting power demand to the lowest rate periods and rooting out hard-to-find inefficiencies. The system’s rules-based operation lets you determine actions based on how aggressively you want to curtail loads, and it will never break these rules while reducing power to your minimum production needs. Spara can prioritize loads sequentially, by group, or by other factors, and it can synchronize load shedding to achieve both savings and productivity targets.

Q: What types of plant equipment can Spara control?

- A:** Spara interfaces seamlessly with most industrial equipment, including:
- Compressors
 - Condensers
 - Evaporators
 - Chillers
 - Pumps
 - Blowers
 - Air compressors
 - Ventilation systems
 - Wastewater treatment systems
 - Production equipment such as grinders, ice makers, and mixers



Spara is also compatible with most existing control platforms and can enhance their energy management performance.

Q: How is Spara different from my existing automation?

- A:** Spara was designed for food and beverage operations. And unlike other control systems or EMS products, Spara takes a holistic approach to energy management. Instead of simply controlling the refrigeration system, as some systems do, Spara lets you intelligently manage energy demand throughout your facility. Spara also incorporates features necessary for participation in the next generation of rate and demand response programs.

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Q: How does Spara integrate with my existing systems—and is that going to be a headache?

A: Spara was built to integrate easily with existing systems:

- Spara utilizes off-the-shelf technology on an embedded Linux system, and provides networking and communication ports for seamless connections to various other controllers, such as PLCs, microcontrollers, and VFDs.
- Spara's industrial wireless connectivity allows you to monitor and control loads without adding cumbersome wiring.
- You can access the Spara EMS from any computer with a web browser and network connection—there's no need to install and manage software on each user's computer.
- Spara's web-based interface uses the latest open standards, making Spara easy to integrate with your IT, data management, and security systems.

