



Conserving Energy

Energy use within a business is often difficult to notice. You can help lower the cost of your bills by reducing the amount of energy you use for electricity, fuel and gas. You can also help the environment by reducing your consumption of greenhouse gases and other air emissions.

To conserve energy you should:

1. Only use energy when required,
2. Discover if energy is being wasted and carry out an energy audit to investigate the causes behind the problem and possible solutions,
3. Seek advice from green energy suppliers.

Managing Your Energy Usage

- Delegate one person to review all energy expenditure to monitor the types of energy your business uses.
- Keep records of energy use and investigate any increase in consumption.
- Turn off electrical equipment (e.g. lights, compressors, computers, photocopiers and printers) when they are not being used.
- Use 7-day timer switches to manage the power supply to processes that always operate at particular intervals.
- Install energy efficient lighting wherever possible.
- Use lighting that is appropriate to the job. Only use lights when they are needed - having wiring for separate light switches will help with this.
- Consider installing skylights in workshop areas to reduce the need for electrical lighting.
- Maintain air compressors in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications.
- Consider installing solar panels to heat hot water or provide some of the businesses power.
- Improve efficiency by regularly checking compressed air systems to identify and repair leaks. (One quick check you can easily carry out is to turn off all the equipment that requires compressed air (e.g. at lunchtime) to see how long the compressor runs for to keep up with leaks).
- Improve the insulation within the building.
- Set thermostats to 21°C in winter and 25°C in summer.
- Check zoning of air conditioning. Ensure thermostats are not competing.
- Ensure there are no draughts in the workshop to allow for the escape of heat.

Environmental Guidelines



Energy & Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP)

EREP is a regulatory program that helps Victorian businesses meet climate change and resource scarcity challenges. Through EREP business can be more resource efficient by implementing actions that achieve environmental benefits and direct cost savings in a short timeframe.

However, not all businesses need to produce and implement Energy and Resource Efficiency Plans. The program only applies to businesses that are significantly energy and water intensive; those using more than 100 TJ of energy and/or 120 ML of water per annum.

To find out if your business meets the EREP threshold check your energy and water bills, or contact the Environment Protection Authority.

Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Save Energy Victoria

www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au/

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Issue date: November 2010

Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.