



Australian Government
Department of Industry



Ethnic Communities'
Council of NSW inc.

BEST

BUSINESS ENERGY SMART TIPS



How to make savings on electricity costs

Savings on electricity costs can be made by changing how you and your staff use equipment or by replacing equipment for more energy efficient models. For a complete list of tips for your business go to www.eccnsw.org.au/best.

Use the BEST Fact Sheet 'Assessing Energy Use' to work out where savings can be made in your business. Alternatively, BEST offers free energy assessments for businesses in Sydney and Melbourne.

There are several ways to make savings on your electricity bill. You can:

- ✓ review your bill, contact your supplier to make changes or find a better deal with another supplier. See the BEST fact sheet on 'Negotiating your energy rate' for further tips at www.eccnsw.org.au/best.
- ✓ change the way you use your equipment no cost and low cost changes, for example switching lights off when not needed or changing to more energy efficient lighting
- ✓ replace and upgrade your equipment to more energy efficient models with reduced running costs.

Actions that have no cost

Actions that have no cost to your business include:

- ✓ switching off unused equipment at the power point
- ✓ turning off lighting when not in use
- ✓ opening doors and windows to increase air flow.

Plan

- What needs to be changed?
- Who will take the responsibility?
- When will this need to occur?
- When will it happen?
- How will it be implemented?



A grocer has the lighting turned off in a fridge display unit and has night blinds to reduce cool air loss.

Involve your staff

These actions need everyone in your business to know what you are trying to do and to make changes in daily operations.

- ✓ Make sure you involve your staff from the start.
- ✓ Your staff will also have ideas about how to save electricity costs.
- ✓ Work with staff to identify goals and targets for saving energy
- ✓ Work out a system for staff to turn off things before going home
- ✓ Consider a reward system for staff.

Review progress

Once the action has started, review the improvements regularly.

- ✓ Check your bills to see whether savings have been made
- ✓ Observe and record what has been done and what has not and analyse why
- ✓ Can more savings be made and how?



Mr Nam wanted to know more about energy saving for his grocer and he did some research about how to save energy in his business. He also did an energy assessment and started keeping track of the bills.

So far, Mr Nam has changed 40 of his T8 lights to LED in the coolers, freezers and customer areas. He focussed on improving the lighting in the areas where the vegetables are displayed.

Actions that have a cost

Actions that have a cost might include:

- ✓ placing a timer (\$10) on non perishable drinks fridges to switch off at night
- ✓ replacing old halogen downlights with more efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LED) at a cost of around \$30/light
- ✓ upgrading fridges, freezers, cool rooms and air conditioners to more energy efficient models. This may cost more up front but will have cheaper running costs.



When to replace?

What needs to be replaced urgently and why?

For example, halogen down lights are inefficient and can be replaced with more energy efficient down lights for little cost. Larger, more costly equipment can be replaced when you renovate or the old equipment is broken. Work out the payback period of your proposed investment. The BEST energy assessment provides this information.

Decide on the type of technology

Most equipment and lighting have energy efficient options. Ask your refrigeration specialist or lighting store for further information. The functionality, size, the maintenance, the installation and the life of the product and running costs should all be considered as well as the initial cost. In the case of down light replacement, the lumen, the shade, the installation and maintenance, and the costs of different types of LED lights need to be known to choose the most suitable.

Choose products and contractors

Choose contractors carefully. Make sure the contractors have a licence, insurance as well as industry experience. Choose contractors that have knowledge about equipment and products that are energy efficient and also who can install larger equipment such as air conditioners and refrigeration to reduce energy use.



Find out about other help or support

In NSW rebates are available from the NSW government's Energy Saving Scheme (www.ess.nsw.gov.au)

Ask your accountant about tax incentives for energy efficient equipment.