

A photograph of a woman with white hair and a man with glasses and a beard, both looking at a laptop and some papers on a desk in an office environment.

Energy Saving Advice

Customer Help Guide

SmartestEnergy is committed to helping your business improve its efficiency. In addition to installing a Smart Meter, this guide highlights some of the practical ways to increase your business' energy efficiency. Methods include changing employee behaviour towards energy use, using more efficient equipment and altering processes to cut down on waste.



Wastage

"The average business wastes 20% of the energy it uses. Whatever sector you are in, you can save energy and money just by making your business more energy efficient."



Specifics

"A single computer and monitor left on 24 hours a day will cost a business over £50 a year. Switching it off out of hours and enabling standby features could cut this to £15 a year."



Taking Action

"Your heating costs can go down by 8% each time you decrease the temperature by just one degree."

About us

SmartestEnergy is the forward-thinking energy supplier helping businesses navigate the new energy landscape. Established since 2001, we're a stable, well-resourced business with an independent voice to recommend what's best for our customers.

Start with the basics

- > Make sure that, where possible, all PCs, machines, equipment, lighting and air-conditioning units are switched off overnight. In a large office assign a member of staff as your 'energy champion' and make them responsible for changing peoples behaviours. For shared equipment such as photocopiers and water coolers, consider fitting timers to ensure they are switched off out-of-hours.

Increase your efficiency

- > Where possible, change standard light bulbs for low energy light bulbs. They provide the same amount of light, but use only 20% of the electricity and last up to 15 times longer. Install movement sensors to lighting where appropriate, especially rooms that are not often used as people can forget to switch lights off after use. Label equipment and control switches so that it's clear how to switch something on/off when it's needed. Some people need reminding, so a little nudge will get staff heading in the right direction.

Find where you can make savings

- > Heating the workplace can account for between 20-40% of a business' energy costs. It's recommended that the office temperature is set to 19C because equipment, lighting and heat from bodies adds to the indoor temperature. It's sounds a little prehistoric, but encourage your employees to wear warmer clothing if they are feeling the cold. Ensure a heating or cooling system is set to come on and go off during working hours. Make sure the system cools, heats and ventilates at the correct times of the day.



Keep it simple

Energy-saving measures that are impractical or difficult to implement are likely to not get off the ground. So to start with don't be too ambitious with your ideas. Suggesting your business installs a solar panel system tomorrow may be laughed out the boardroom, however asking people to switch off equipment before they go home this evening will not.



Monitor your usage

- > Taking regular meter readings and comparing consumption over a number of months is a good idea. Our SourceProfile service is the perfect tool for this and makes keeping a close eye on electricity usage and tracking progress incredibly easy. That way you can understand where and when you are using the most and potentially highlight areas to cut wastage. If your business manufactures something tangible, try to measure energy use per product item. This will allow you to spot patterns and identify areas where savings could be made.

Lead a culture change

- > If you see a load of people wearing t-shirts you could probably get away with turning the heating down slightly. Notice a light on in a rarely used meeting room? Think about installing a sensor (or, as a short-term solution, simply switch it off). Look around and you might also spot machinery that is left on when not being used and other areas of waste. Equally important, this behaviour might start to wear off on your colleagues if you do this regularly and you'll need to inspire others if change is going to happen.

Take advantage of funding

- > Look into the possibility of investing in energy saving technologies and products. The Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme (ECA) enables you to claim 100% first year capital allowances on investments of qualifying equipment. You could potentially write off the whole cost of your investment against your taxable profits for the period in which you make an investment. That sort of talk will go a long way in convincing the decision-makers. You may even qualify for an interest-free loan from the Carbon Trust.



Talk to the experts

There are loads of things you can do to reduce your organisation's energy consumption. The Carbon Trust website provided some of the tips in this guide and contains many more. The government's Business Link service also has some good advice.

- > www.thecarbontrust.co.uk
- > www.businesslink.gov.uk

