



Article

The Many Benefits of Saving Energy in Your Business

The business case as to why any business should actively look at ways to save energy and become more sustainable is an easy one.

Saving energy is actually one of the simplest and most impactful ways businesses can reduce costs and improve their bottom line.

Aside from these commercial benefits, climate change has never been so high on the political agenda, and we are already seeing a cascade of further initiatives and government regulations.

Customers, staff and suppliers are now also more eco savvy. To continue to attract and retain quality staff and retain and/or win private and government contracts, ensuring your company has a strong and certified environmental sustainability strategy is now a must.

Depending upon your business type, energy efficiency can also reduce capital expenditure on equipment by improving the efficiency of existing equipment or by reducing capacity requirements.

Quite often energy waste can be the cause of other problems: There is overwhelming evidence that improved energy efficiency reduces maintenance costs, increases output, improves product quality, working conditions and productivity.

In a study conducted by GreenBizCheck, Australia's leading cloud-based environmental certification company, it was found that businesses can save between 10 to 40% on electricity expenditure just by implementing a few easy actions.

"With the cost of electricity continuing to rise, this will equate to significant P&L improvements for most businesses." stated GreenBizCheck Managing Director Nicholas Bernhardt.

DuPont, one of the largest companies in the world summed up the commercial benefits by stating: *"40%+ of energy efficiency improvement were achieved through low or no-cost projects ... saving billions of dollars."*

"There is no doubt that becoming more efficient and sustainable makes commercial sense. Yet it is still surprising that many businesses view "sustainability" as something that will cost money", continued Bernhardt. This misconception often results in the delay of implementation of important sustainability projects that have the potential of slashing both costs and carbon emissions.

This is one of the main reasons why businesses are still wasting millions of dollars every year on energy bills that could be avoided. These unrealised savings could be helping businesses become more efficient, more productive and more profitable.

For many businesses the biggest hurdle can be changing the behaviour of staff. Bernhardt says that, “buy-in by senior management and staff involvement is critical as it will ensure that the implemented changes and actions are permanent and effective.”

“Not all energy saving activity has to cost money.” Bernhardt shares. “We show our clients over 50 ways they can reduce their electricity consumption and a significant proportion of those actions do not cost anything at all. It is about being smart within your current business practices.”

GreenBizCheck’s online environmental program helps companies to quickly implement sustainable environmental practices which rapidly increase profits, attract new business, conserve energy, water, resources and minimise waste.

Companies are provided with a 260+ point online assessment with immediate reporting and action planning. Companies can achieve either a bronze, silver or gold certification level and all certifications are verified by Bureau Veritas, the world’s leading certification body.

The assessment focuses on energy conservation and also covers; water consumption reduction, waste reduction and recycling, transportation and travel, procurement and supply chain sustainability, general environmental issues and voluntary carbon measurement and offsetting.

GreenBizCheck’s top five energy saving tips are:

- 1) Turn off all PCs, computer screens, printers, photocopiers, scanners, etc. at the wall when the office is closed (standby power can contribute to 10% plus of your energy bill)
- 2) Set the air-con to min. 24°C / max. 20°C on warm / cold days respectively and keep windows and doors closed in air conditioned spaces
- 3) Replace inefficient lighting with energy efficient lighting
- 4) Turn off all appliances at the wall when not in use
- 5) Monitor your power consumption and find out what your biggest consumers are and then assess how to improve usage.

If you would like more ideas on how your business can improve energy usage and maximise the benefits, visit www.greenbizcheck.com or contact GreenBizCheck at info@greenbizcheck.com

As a result of the Federal Government’s Commitment, the TCF Australia ONLINE ENERGY EFFICIENCY Training & Mentoring Project is able to offer an extensive range of specialist energy efficiency services to small businesses in the fashion, textile, clothing, footwear, leather (TCF) creative, and associated industries across Australia.

Small businesses can register for FREE Online Training Webinars, ONLINE Energy Efficiency FREE 'ASK AN EXPERT' Forums and FREE mentoring.

To find out more about the Energy Efficiency business advisory services offered, or register for services as part of the TCF Australia Energy Efficiency Project please visit www.tcfaustralia.com/greenenergy or email greenenergy@tcfaustralia.com

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