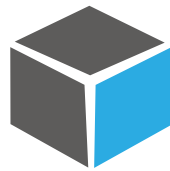


Ways to reduce your energy bills



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Energy consumption is a major area of cost for all retail businesses. Whether you are using electricity, gas or liquefied petroleum gas, using these energy sources more efficiently can bring cost savings of up to 20 per cent in a year.

Our 6 tips to cut business energy costs

Switch supplier

Did you know you can switch your energy supplier within a matter of weeks with zero hassle? Switching energy provider is one of the easiest ways to cut energy bills, and yet as many as 1.3 million businesses might be losing out on better deals by remaining with the same supplier. Find out more about switching your energy provider, [here](#)

Audit

You can't make meaningful changes if you don't know where you're currently losing money. An energy audit involves looking at the whole business and analysing where changes could – and should – be made.

Switch off computers and other equipment

Many businesses struggle to enforce rules on switching off equipment overnight – but it can make a real difference to your energy bill. Over the course of a year, a single desktop computer and PC monitor will use up over £6.00 just while they're left on standby. Multiply that by 50 members of staff and suddenly, there's a £300 annual saving to be made, simply by switching off computers.

Provide efficient equipment in the office

It sounds obvious, but many business owners are unaware of the massive differences that pieces of equipment make in the workplace. Laptop computers, for instance, use up to 90 per cent less energy than a standard desktop computer. Choose equipment with an A+ energy rating, and you can expect cheaper energy bills – offsetting the purchase price of the appliance.

Switch lights off

Likewise, lights left on when not in use could be bumping up your bills. The easiest way to curb this is by investing in a motion-sensor lighting system. For further savings, switch your incandescent light bulbs for fluorescent bulbs for a significant annual saving. And, as an added bonus, a compact fluorescent bulb will last about 10,000 hours as opposed to the 600- to 1,000-hour average life of an incandescent – so you'll need to replace them less often, too.

Turn the heating down

Turning the thermostat down by one degree can save £85 – £90 annually in a three-bed semi-detached home, according to the Energy Saving Trust. So, imagine what it can do in the workplace.

Obviously, it pays to turn down your thermostat at night or when you're away for more than four hours during the day. Just don't turn your heating system off entirely, as this may cause pipes to freeze in cold months.

For more information contact us today

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