

**Government rebates for energy efficiency** Advertising Feature

# Reducing costs with energy efficiency

With Australia's commercial and industrial sectors looking at ways to improve efficiency and the bottom line, consulting an expert in energy conservation to lower power usage and reduce a firm's carbon footprint can pay dividends.

"Energy efficiency remains one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs - it's about doing more with less," says Ben Champion, senior project manager with independent engineering consultancy Energy Conservation.

Employing a skilled group of environmental scientists, mechanical and electrical engineers, Energy Conservation advises a raft of Australian businesses and has facilitated government funding rewards for IKEA, Linfox, Metcash and Couriers Please, to name a few.

"Businesses adopting energy efficiency can mitigate their risks from future carbon mechanisms, the ongoing uncertainty of future energy costs and achieve a competitive advantage in the market through lower operational costs," says Champion.

Among its projects, Energy Conservation is working with the City of Sydney to provide NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) energy performance for large residential apartments as well as collaborating with property groups to provide NABERS waste



Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce costs, says Ben Champion (pictured, left).

ratings for commercial offices. Looking at a range of factors including heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and lighting, the Energy Conservation team determines where equipment can be upgraded, cost cuts can be made and where government rebates can be sought.

"Our services revolve around energy audits and targeted equipment assessments," says Champion.

"Our process is to verify what equipment the facility has; determine how it's

performing; when it's running; and how much it is costing. Typically we find energy savings of 30 per cent with under two-year payback - that's better than most mobile phone plans.

"Given that HVAC can make up to 60 per cent of a facility's energy use, closely followed by inefficient lighting at between 10-30 per cent, these are low hanging fruit opportunities.

"The intangible benefits are improved and safer working conditions, better productivity, doing something incredibly

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**Ben Champion**

important for the environment and increased motivation for staff."

Many businesses are still in the dark about the range of government incentives available to them, he says.

The team at Energy Conservation helps clients take full advantage of the successful yet underutilised NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) and Victorian Energy Saver upgrades program (VEU).

"These state-based government programs provide a financial reward for business and households who achieve an energy efficiency gain from equipment upgrades," says Champion.

"The ESS/VEU programs are very lucrative and, typically, LED lighting features heavily where project costs can be offset by more than 50 per cent for large warehouse and wholesale storage facilities."

The programs also provide for financial reward for mechanical upgrades, covering HVAC/chiller upgrades, boilers and refrigeration based on energy efficiency gains from equipment replacement, modification and optimisation.

"Smart businesses understand that energy efficiency is an easy gain with low capital outlay and fast payback," he says.

## YOUR PARTNER IN RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Energy and waste charges have risen rapidly in recent years. Power network infrastructure investment, availability and reliability issues, government policies and pressure on environment have led to increased prices.

But these are not fixed costs - they are variable and can be reduced with efficient management. Smart businesses don't let costs keep going up. They take steps to control them.

Efficiency improvements can reduce energy consumption and waste creation. By helping you identify and implement efficiency measures, we can help you to achieve financial savings.



**Take control of your resource costs today.**

For more information  
**phone: (02) 9660 9997 or visit**  
**[www.energyconservation.com.au](http://www.energyconservation.com.au)**

