



KILOWATT

“ We wanted to make life easier, so we installed power boards to turn off with the flick of a single switch. ”



Positively charged behaviour

Did you know?

Leaving electrical devices on ‘standby’ consumes about 10% of total energy.

It is possible to save a substantial amount of energy with minimum effort through education and awareness. As clever custodians, we can make a difference by starting in our own institutions and then talking about the savings we are making to our staff, volunteers and supporters. But energy efficiency in museums and galleries is about much more than keeping up with the latest fad. It can deliver real financial savings and help engage audiences in new conversations.

Behaviour

In practical terms, a good first step is to raise awareness amongst all staff of energy use and its implications. You could find out how aware staff are about energy waste and then identify where and how energy is being wasted. Of course, each place will be different and you may be able to build on existing good practice. You can then set achievement goals and present the case for energy efficient behaviour in terms of increased productivity, improved comfort or by enabling savings at home for staff. Because we know that old habits die hard, it's important to involve, educate and follow up on behavioural change programs to see real change over time. Keep it simple and stay on message.

Education and behavioural change are fundamental to achieving energy efficiency targets in any organisation. Museums and galleries can go further by using education and research to raise awareness, to encourage the development of new skills, and embrace change.

This is a great opportunity to re-evaluate our assumptions and attitudes towards energy use and come up with new ways to exhibit and care for our significant collections, and at the

same time, save money. Make it easier for your staff and volunteers to make a difference by upgrading lighting circuits to enable timers, occupancy or movement sensors to take the strain. Install power boards in a location that is easy to reach so that a number of devices can be switched off at once.

Energy consumption

Another practice that can lead to making energy efficient decisions involves developing an understanding about energy consumption in your organisation. You can easily get a broad idea of consumption by making your own calculations or you could ask for assistance from a professional.

You may have heard of establishing a baseline in relation to energy consumption. It's a good idea to measure how much energy you are consuming before you start making changes. Then you can re-measure again to see what savings have been made. The starting point for this is getting to know your electricity bill. Your bill provides a periodic statement of energy consumption. To find out how to read and use an energy bill visit our online resource at www.clevercustodians.com.au.

To get a more detailed picture, you can commission an energy audit tailored to your own institution. There are three different levels of energy audit, which differ in their complexity and detail of analysis, and the cost incurred also depends on the size of your institution. Level 2 provides a reasonable understanding on which recommendations can then be made.

Energy Audit Level 2 cost estimates (2014):

Small museums and galleries	\$500-\$1,000
Medium	\$1,250-\$2,500
Large institutions	\$5,000-\$7,000

Quick wins

- Inspect the energy bill and establish a baseline
- Install power boards
- Think before you print
- Elevate somebody to champion status
- Raise awareness about energy efficiency
- Label your switches

Long term wins

- Equipment maintenance makes for efficient operation
- Upgrade to energy efficient models
- Showcase your energy efficiency savings to the public - lead by example
- Commission an energy audit and plan to implement recommendations

More information

For further information on the Energy Efficiency Information Resources for Public Museums and Gallery sector project visit our website at www.clevercustodians.com.au or load the resource provided on the USB Drive.